

DREF Bulletin



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

TUNISIA FLOODS 2007

**Final Report for
DREF Bulletin
no. MDRTN001
29 August 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

Period covered by this Final Report: 24 April to 31 July, 2007.

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

- CHF 45,000 (USD 37,268 or EUR 27,296) allocated from the Federation's DREF on 1 May 2007 to respond to the needs of this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.
- This operation was expected to be implemented over two months, and completed by 30 June 2007. In line with Federation reporting standards, the DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) was due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 30 September 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.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In Tunisia: Dr. Tahar Cheniti, Secretary General, Tunisian Red Crescent; email: hilal.ahmar@planet.tn; phone: + 216 71 320 630; fax: + 216 71 320 151*
- *In Tunisia: Anne Elisabeth Leclerc, Head of Regional Representation, Regional Representation for North Africa; email: ae.leclerc@ifrc.org; phone: + 216 71 86 24 85; fax: + 216 71 86 29 71*
- *In Jordan: Marwan Jilani, Head of MENA Zone, Amman (temporary); phone: 00 962 79 6340346; email: Marwan.Jilani@ifrc.org*

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 Summary



Torrential rains have affected several governorates in southern Tunisia in April 2007, forcing families to evacuate their flooded homes

Torrential rains have affected several governorates in southern Tunisia in the end of April 2007. Hfor El Tine, situated in the city of Tozeur, 400 km from the capital Tunis, was one location severely affected¹

The city is built in a valley and can often be muddy. Following the heavy rains, more than 300 families had to be evacuated from their flooded homes. Most of them were accommodated with relatives, but mosques, youth houses and schools also provided refuge.

Hfor El Tine is a poor district, many of the houses are very old and its geographic situation is deemed problematic. The drainage basin of the purification centre (National Sanitation Utility Centre) which is situated in the middle of Hfor el Tine has overflowed into the houses.

The floods occurred during the night while habitants were sleeping; therefore they did not have time to react and were forced to leave their houses immediately. Indeed, this sudden situation caused several material and financial damages to the families whom most of them are from the poor social class. The heavy rains have also destructed several houses and killed some backyard animals (poultry).

The Tunisian army, the civilian protection and the Tunisian Red Crescent Society have been present on the scene since the very beginning, delivering emergency assistance to the affected population. Families have been evacuated and the Tunisian Red Crescent complemented this by providing food items and distributing clothes to the most affected people.

Analysis of the operation – achievements and impact

The immediate response (Phase 1)

The Red Crescent branch of Tozeur immediately deployed a team of volunteers. An alert was sent to the headquarters (HQs) on 25 April and on the basis of the first assessment made by the volunteers, on 27 April, the Tunisian Red Crescent HQs sent two trucks of relief items from their central warehouses to the field.

Relief items that have been distributed immediately after the floods (27-29 May 2007)

Items that have been purchased for the needs of the operation:

- 100 blankets
- 1 ton of flour
- 1 ton of pasta

Items distributed from the Tunisian Red Crescent central warehouse, using mainly the in kind donations of the Finnish Red Cross:

- 10 bales of clothes,
- 4 big bags of new shoes,
- 5 big bags of used shoes

¹ A video of the disaster is available at the regional representation upon request.

The Tunisian Red Crescent has intervened to the disaster through its regional branch and local committees. An initial team of volunteers assisted the affected population by providing basic relief items and psychological support. The assistance was conducted in close cooperation with several actors such as the civil protection, the Agricultural and Environment Land Settlement, the National Sanitarian Utility Centre and the national army. The needs of the emergency phase were covered through the rapid deployment of the Tunisian Red Crescent Society disaster preparedness (DP) stocks as well as a good local resource mobilization process and a strong solidarity mechanism (donations from the private sector and public). This operation has highlighted the importance for the national society to continue to build basic DP stocks both at national and regional level.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation), in contact with the secretary general of the Tunisian Red Crescent Society, has been present since the beginning of the operation through its regional representation for North Africa (based in Tunis). Thanks to an effective communication with the Secretariat, an allocation from the disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) was granted within 3 days of the disaster in order to support the National Society in providing assistance to the affected families.

Post - emergency (Phase 2)

Once the emergency phase was over, a more in depth assessment was conducted. Affected people returned to their homes to assess the damages. An initial list of 200 hundred families was prepared in close cooperation with the relevant authorities. The assessment confirmed the need for blankets, mattresses and food parcels as most of the personal belongings were swept out during the floods. The regional representation deployed one of its personnel in the field to support the president and team of the Red Crescent local branch. The objective of the mission was to provide some assistance in the implementation of the plan of action, and to brief the staff of the branch on International Federation emergency mechanisms and related procedures (DREF, logistics, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, finance). The International Federation staff also took the opportunity to inform the local branch about the quality standards for emergency relief items and advised them to include those criteria in the bids. The president, the secretary general and program managers of the Tozeur Branch were briefed on the Sphere Project and the “Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standard in Disaster Response” (indication of appropriate specifications) and applied this knowledge to their daily action.



Beneficiaries received their relief items, after showing their identity cards to the Tunisian Red Crescent volunteers

On 11 May 2007 an exhaustive list of affected families compiled by the Tunisian Red Crescent local volunteers was shared with the local authorities, indicating a number of 372 affected families. A revision of the budget lines was made, following the identification of the final needs and the procurement process (quotations, selection of suppliers, etc.). Thanks to a successful process, quantities of relief items could be increased to better address the needs of the affected families.

The distributions by the Red Crescent volunteers were well organized and took place very smoothly. As planned, 372 families benefited from this assistance.

Relief items that have been distributed after the DREF allocation (17 May-30 June 2007)

- 372 food parcels: Each family has received one parcel.
- 744 blankets: Each family has received 2 blankets.
- 695 mattresses: Some families have received one blanket and a second mattress has been provided to the most in need.

A second mission was organized jointly with the secretary general of the Tunisian Red Crescent Society and the head of regional representation for North Africa, which took place on 5-6 June 2007. The representatives from the National Society and the International Federation participated in the distribution of the relief items and seized the opportunity to organize a post-disaster evaluation with the branch officials, the program managers and all the volunteers involved in the operation. By both sides, this was perceived as an excellent opportunity to learn and share several issues related to the operation. Difficulties faced by the regional branch, weaknesses experienced by the managers at time of emergencies, role of the Tunisian Red Crescent not being well understood by the authorities, and weak volunteer management were some of the issues presented in a very open way, providing the floor for fruitful and constructive discussions.

Coordination



The food parcels were distributed by volunteers, in partnership with the local authorities

The distributions of the food parcels were made possible thanks to the partnership and good coordination with the local authorities. The regional branch of the Tunisian Red Crescent in Tozeur coordinated the distribution with the support of the Tozeur governorate. In addition, the Regional Centre for Blinds was put at the disposal of the Tunisian Red Crescent. The centre was not only temporarily re-arranged as a warehouse where the National Society relief items could be stocked, but also served as a base for the organisation of distributions. The disposal of this facility, located in the centre of the city, was of significant importance during this phase.

Successes

As a result of this operation, an important quantity of relief items was distributed to the affected families during the emergency and post disaster rehabilitation phase. An effective communication and cooperation between the branch, the HQs and the regional representation of the International Federation, plus several actors involved in the operation, lead to an effective and quick response.

The enthusiasm and commitment of Red Crescent volunteers were invaluable, which was very much appreciated by the beneficiaries of affected communities. The willingness of the teams to develop and improve the branch capacities and skills were also of significant importance.

In addition, this DREF operation had a positive impact on the visibility of the National Society. It strongly reinforced the profile and community perception of the work done by the Tunisian Red Crescent branch. Consequently, the regional branches registered several new applications from people who would like to join the National Society as volunteers.

Challenges

During the operation, there were difficulties in assessing the damage (because of lack of experience and knowledge in disaster management) and in identifying the final number of affected families.

The regional committee of the Tunisian Red Crescent was not properly prepared to face such disasters, due to lack of resources (i.e. adequate office and warehouse). This made the distribution of the relief items difficult to organize and pointed out the necessity of the Tozeur regional committee to embark on an organizational development and preparedness process. Poor management of volunteers in the affected region and the difficulty to mobilize them quickly was another issue that will need to be focused on in the future.

During the one month interval between the first distribution and the second one that followed the DREF allocation, several families that were not among those been affected by the floods heard about the distribution of parcels, mattresses and blankets and started to approach the regional committee of the Tunisian Red Crescent, asking for

assistance. Indeed, it was difficult for the local branch to explain to these families the reason why they could not benefit from the distribution.

Looking ahead

Following this operation, the regional committee of Tozeur has requested additional assistance from its HQs to better prepare and support local committees in responding to the needs of their communities. Meetings were organized with the local governance to discuss a strategy and a plan of action to be submitted for approval. Together with the secretary general, the regional representation will consider possible funding to support this region in its capacity building and development efforts.

The Tozeur branch is currently working on:

1. Establishing a disaster risk reduction project: This operation did offer the opportunity to the regional branch to look forward for the reinforcement of its own capacity. A coordination meeting resulted in a regional plan that will involve several parties and help them face any future emergency disaster situation. This plan depends on the renewal of the Tunisian Red Crescent regional and local committees, which should take place in the near future. As per the objectives of the regional branch and according to the evaluation of this operation, a regional project for volunteer recruitment has been set up and a small committee has been designed to train the first group of 10 volunteers in the field of risk reduction.
2. Improving the management of volunteers (recruitment, regional campaigns, etc.).
3. Introducing a new plan of action for the regional committee in Tozeur and a strategic plan for the dissemination of humanitarian values.
4. Introducing a strategic plan to boost the work of the local committees and reinforce the capacities of the existing ones.
5. Introducing a strategic contingency plan for disaster management.

Financial Report

As indicated in the final financial report below, funds were spent according to the planned budget.

[Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRTN001 - TUNISIA - FLOODS

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/05-2007/07
Budget Timeframe	2007/05-2007/07
Appeal	MDRTN001
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		45,000				45,000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		45,000				45,000
C6. Other Income		45,000				45,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		45,000				45,000
D. Total Funding = B + C		45,000				45,000

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		45,000				45,000
E. Expenditure		-45,000				-45,000
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	
BUDGET (C)		45,000					45,000	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	21,000		22,734			22,734	-1,734	
Food	18,600		17,790			17,790	810	
Total Supplies	39,600		40,524			40,524	-924	
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	500		121			121	379	
Total Transport & Storage	500		121			121	379	
Personnel Expenditures								
National Staff			637			637	-637	
National Society Staff	1,000		19			19	981	
Total Personnel Expenditures	1,000		656			656	344	
General Expenditure								
Travel			492			492	-492	
Information & Public Relation			240			240	-240	
Office Costs	975						975	
Communications			6			6	-6	
Financial Charges			36			36	-36	
Total General Expenditure	975		774			774	201	
Program Support								
Program Support	2,925		2,925			2,925	0	
Total Program Support	2,925		2,925			2,925	0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	45,000		45,000			45,000	0	
VARIANCE (C - D)			0			0		