

Final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Algeria: Floods in Ghardaia

Final report
Emergency appeal n° MDRDZ001
GLIDE n° FF-2008-000178-DZA
2 August 2009

Period covered by this Final Report: 17 October 2008 to 30 April, 2009;

Appeal target (current): CHF 809,626 (USD 747,065 or EUR 530,775);

Final Appeal coverage: 33%; [<click here to go directly to the final financial report, or here to view the contact details>](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 17 October 2008 for CHF 809,626 (USD 747,065 or EUR 530,775) for 6 months to assist 2,513 families (12,000 beneficiaries).
- CHF 187,166 was initially allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 15 October 2008 to support the Algerian Red Crescent Society (Algerian RC) in delivering assistance to the targeted beneficiaries and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks. CHF 137,168.95 has been returned to DREF in the end of the operation; bringing the final DREF allocation to CHF 49,998.

Summary:

With the Ghardaia Floods response operation, the Algerian RC once more demonstrated its capacity to quickly and efficiently mobilise resources to respond within the first hours of the disasters. 22 out of 48 Algerian RC branches were immediately mobilised, launching public appeals, organising its teams of volunteers, coordinating closely with the headquarters' emergency task force and the disaster management coordinator, and collecting the in kind donations.

The emergency phase of the floods operation was well covered through the relief goods pre-positioned in Algerian RC regional stocks that were easily deployed to Ghardaia. This has allowed a quick response to the population affected by the floods in the 17 most affected sites. The Algerian RC was the lead agency from the civil society, working in close collaboration with the Civil Defence.

The main challenge faced at the beginning of the operation was the complex coordination between the different actors to mainstream the large efforts of solidarity from the Algerian population and the business sector, and the need to ensure a better mainstreaming of the relief aid.



Floods caused by heavy rains in the Algerian oasis town of Ghardaia in October 2008 were the worst the region experienced in decades. International Federation.

Following the emergency phase, the recovery phase focused on reconstituting the basic relief stocks at regional level to be prepared for new disasters. The Algerian government decided not to call for any international assistance. Therefore, it became even more crucial for the Algerian RC to get the support of the International Federation to support the re-constitution of the National Society stocks depleted during the operation.

The DREF allocation was mainly used to cover the needs of the two phases mentioned above. As most of the contributions to the Emergency Appeal were received at a later stage, from the end of November 2008 to March 2009, the DREF allocation was crucial to support the National Society at the earlier stage and in the procurement of relief items done through the International Federation's Regional Logistic Unit (RLU) in Dubai.

The International Federation appreciates the contribution of Swedish Red Cross and Swedish government, Finnish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, Hong Kong Red Cross and Libyan Red Crescent to this operation. Contributions received were used to re-furbish the central and regional stocks and to partly reimburse the DREF allocation.

Lessons learned:

Despite internal difficulties met by Algerian RC, the emergency operation was successfully handled, showing the impact of the disaster management training component undertaken by the Algerian RC with the support of the International Federation after the Boumerdes earthquake in 2003.

Communications with and reporting to the International Federation structures at time of disasters remain a critical issue, despite a real effort from the National Society to set up a daily update. Communications of information is a key issue that needs to be addressed in a proper way through the assignment of a person in the emergency task force.

One of the key lessons learned has been the necessity to strengthen the dialogue with the Civil Defence and to work on contingency plans at local, regional or national levels, seeking for complementarity and mutual support.

Another interesting lesson from this operation was the capacity of the National Society to mobilise local resources from the public and private sector. Through a good disaster preparedness programme (stocks pre-positioned at regional level) and an effective resource mobilisation plan, the emergency phase can be covered easily by a well prepared National Society. Unfortunately, it is difficult to obtain funds for the preparedness and organisational phases of operations like the reconstitution and pre-positioning of stocks; risk reduction programmes; and capacity building programmes to invest in local staff and volunteers.

Last but not least, bilateral support to Algerian RC from the Gulf National Societies is an important factor of support to the National Society. Sharing of information and the overall coordination concept still remain to be a problematic issue. Transparency from participating National Societies will help to re-assess the in country needs covered or to be covered.

The Algerian RC benefits from a solid set up all over the country and confidence of the local population. It is one of the few organizations from the civil society that is highly recognised and which could play an important role at community level, should they be better prepared in advance. This investment and support from the RC/RC Movement and international community is needed, especially when the national authorities are restricting the international assistance. However, it appears that many RC/RC donors are also dependent on government funding and the fact that there was no call for humanitarian assistance from the government was a number of times provided as a reason for National Societies not to be in a position to apply for government funding. This explains partly the low coverage of this Floods Emergency Appeal.

The situation



Floods caused by heavy rains killed 93 people, injured 50, and left many thousands of homeless in and around the Algerian oasis town of Ghardaia in October 2008. 11,800 families were affected by the worst floods the region has experienced since decades. Eight of the 13 districts of the surrounding Ghardaia province were affected by the floods and thousands of homes were inundated.

The region of Ghardaia is located in the valley of M'Zab, and geographically situated in the centre of the country (600 km south of Algiers). It is in the middle of the desert, suffering from a dry climate which is extremely hot during the day and cold at night.

The main actors on the field were Algerian RC, the Civil Defence, and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The solidarity of the Algerian population has been quickly materialised through effective mobilisation of food and non-food items (NFIs). In most cases, the local Red Crescent committees were involved in the coordination and transport of aid to the affected areas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Achievements against objectives

Overview

The Algerian RC was present from the first hours of the disaster establishing an emergency cell, coordinating with its headquarters and national and regional teams, and organising teams of volunteers for search and rescue and rapid needs assessment. These efforts were coordinated with the local authorities and the Civil Defence. Within 24 hours, 22 Algerian RC committees of wilayas had deployed their volunteers, organised the collection of relief items at the National Society regional warehouses, launched some local appeals and sent vehicles and trucks with emergency food and NFIs to the Ghardaia regional warehouse.

The National Society benefited from cash and in kind donations from local donors. The DREF allocation was used to support the Algerian RC in assisting 2,513 families (12,000 beneficiaries) with relief items (kitchen sets, blankets, mattresses, and water pumps); in its search and rescue efforts; and in cleaning up of the streets and the houses.

During the emergency phase, Algerian RC was delivering the following services:

1. Search and Rescue (assisting the Civil Defence)
2. Registration of the affected population on the list of beneficiaries (in coordination with local authorities)
3. Field needs assessments
4. Distribution of food and NFIs, serving 1,207 families in 17 temporary shelters/tent camps
5. Health and care services including the provision of first aid, basic health care, and psycho-social support
6. Disaster risk awareness and environmental programmes (risk of water-borne diseases, food poisoning, risks of landslides, rockslides, mudslides and electrical hazards).

During this operation, the regional Algerian RC committee of Ghardaia has proven its capacity to successfully handle a complex relief operation with limited resources thanks to strong coordination with its central headquarters and other branches.

Despite low coverage of the Appeal, the Algerian RC continued support the affected population as the final relocation of the homeless people was regularly delayed. Following an evaluation of the situation, Algerian RC disaster management coordinator, in close coordination with the North Africa regional representation of the International Federation, agreed to use the contribution of partners exclusively for the procurement of relief items for the reconstitution of the stocks. During the operation, Algerian RC replenished its stocks of NFIs used in the initial emergency relief phase and procured blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, jerry cans, and first aid kits according to the International Federation's standard procedures and pre-positioned them both at the national and regional warehouses.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Objective: The specific quantities and quality of relief items distributed to the beneficiaries are appropriate; distributions are carried out according to assessment and selection criteria that identify actual needs and vulnerable groups, and are based on careful registration and a system/process that controls and monitors, and records the movement of such goods.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Affected families are equipped with basic relief items to recover normal living conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop with local authorities a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver the intended assistance. • Identify beneficiaries through field surveys (in accordance with criteria in the Algerian RC disaster relief procedures) carried out by RC volunteers among the severely affected population. • Promote safer housing/disaster resilience through distribution of relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local procurement of relief items according to the International Federation's standard procedures and distribution of blankets, beds/mattresses, jerry cans, kitchen sets, and first aid kits. ○ Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

The assessments were successfully conducted by the volunteers and the needs were identified. Accordingly, plans of action were prepared. The selection and identification of beneficiaries were made together with the local authorities, municipalities and neighbourhood associations. The consolidation of the list and its computerisation was taken care by the Algerian RC volunteers at the emergency cell.

The procurements were made according to the initial plans and DREF budget. 1,000 blankets, 1,000 mattresses, 2,500 kitchen sets, eight motor pumps, and one vehicle of the Ghardaia branch which was destroyed during the floods were procured through RLU in Dubai. The items were delivered in April to the central warehouse as emergency stocks and also sent as necessary to the willayas that had depleted their own regional stocks at the time of the floods to support the Ghardaia branch in its assistance programme.

Emergency health and care	
Objective: The health risks of the disaster on the affected population is reduced through the provision of preventive, community-level and curative services to 2,513 families (12,000 beneficiaries) in eight districts in Ghardaia region.	
Expected Results	Activities planned
Health risks of the affected population are further assessed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the health risks of the affected population in terms of services, prevention, needs and possibility of communicable diseases.
Further mortality and morbidity of approximately 2,500 families as a result of the floods are prevented through a primary health care oriented programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide first aid and referral services for affected communities in the following three months. • Support mass polio and anti-meningococci vaccination campaigns with 150 volunteers through social mobilisation and/or independent monitoring in coordination with the Ministry of Health.

The resilience of the community is improved through better health awareness, knowledge and behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a large disaster risk reduction (DRR) campaign at community and school level. The DRR awareness school programme focusing on floods will be based on the experience of earthquake awareness programme for the development of training/teaching material.
The scope and quality of the Algerian RC health and care services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide 500 first aid kits/equipments for Algerian RC national/regional intervention teams helping with the capacity building of the local branches.
Psycho-social support is provided to 2,000 families and 200 staff/volunteers of the Algerian RC as needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide psycho-social support to 200 staff and volunteers of Algerian RC engaged in emergency response. Provide psycho-social support to 5,000 people affected by the emergency through the Algerian RC psychologists' network. Organize a psychological debriefing for staff and volunteers of Algerian RC after the emergency phase.

Thanks to good cooperation with the staff from the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Algerian RC volunteers did address the first aid services at community level, promoting hygiene and disseminating the MoH messages through the camps.

The psycho-social support programme (PSP) and the disaster risk reduction programme were highly praised by the population and by the authorities. It is perceived as an essential programme in these situations of distress and highlights the added value of the Algerian RC. The presence and role of the volunteers within the communities was deeply appreciated and helped in the identification of people's needs.

Algerian RC benefits from a strong network of well trained and dedicated psychologists in the country, supporting the affected population during crises or disasters. This programme was initially supported for several years by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The International Federation did support a larger PSP approach and trained volunteers to cope better with the stress and to acquire the necessary skills (active listening techniques) to support adequately the affected people. The French Red Cross, in its support to Algerian RC first aid programme, has also been integrating PSP modules to the trainings. This activity is one of the key areas of support provided to the population.

Unfortunately, no debriefing was organised for the volunteers but the agenda is being kept and will be addressed in the evaluation session that will be organised in late August in Ghardaia with the 160 volunteers.

Due to the insufficient funding, first aid bags were not procured to support the National Society branches.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion	
Objective: The risk of waterborne diseases has been reduced through the provision of water treatment at household level, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 2,513 families (or 12,000 beneficiaries) in Ghardaia for one month.	
Expected results	Activities planned
The existing coverage is assessed with a view to ensuring availability of and access to an adequate water supply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the basic water, sanitation and hygiene promotion and likelihood of water and sanitation related diseases in the affected population. Based on this assessment, procure and distribute to the beneficiaries the necessary items to treat the water (powder and sachets)
The health status of the population is improved through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a hygiene promotion campaign with the MoH within the affected population focusing on behaviour change and targeting 10,000 people in eight districts affected in the Ghardaia region. Provide chlorine tablets and water sanitation promotional materials to be used in the health promotion campaign.
The scope and quality of the Algerian RC's water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a training on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST), water supply, sanitation, etc. for 50 national intervention teams, volunteers, and Algerian RC staff in the affected branches within the next six months.

The teams of Algerian RC volunteers have supported the Civil Defence and the families in the massive and endless work of cleaning houses, streets, removing water, mud and other material left over from the floods. Another important work undertaken by the National Society volunteers was a first preliminary assessment of the damaged houses and convincing the families to leave the houses through explaining the risks and dangers of the situation. This was the disaster risk awareness component of the operation, aiming at reducing the impact of the disaster and helping the people in shock to realise and recognise the existing risks and mitigate their impact.

The motor pumps used were replaced through the procurement of new pumps through the RLU in Dubai. These pumps were partly stored in the Algerian RC central warehouse and limited number of motor pumps were sent to branches in Ghardaia.

The training on PHAST could not be conducted within the operation timeframe. Nevertheless, thanks to the Norwegian Red Cross support to the North Africa Annual Appeal, the emergency response unit (ERU) equipment of the National Society will be assessed and a refreshing course will be provided to the specialized water and sanitation team.

Logistics	
Objective: The local logistics capacity is assessed and reinforced.	
Expected results	Activities planned
<p>Mobilization of relief goods including reception of all incoming goods, warehousing and efficient dispatch to the final distribution points is coordinated.</p> <p>Logistics capacity through logistics and relief workshops are developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize specific relief items to respond to needs in the field and coordinate with donors regarding outstanding needs (North Africa regional representation). International shipments will be coordinated through the Dubai RLU with close communication with the field. Intended shipments should be advised to the RLU so commodity tracking numbers (CTN) can be issued. • Support the relief operations through delivering a range of relief items in line with operational priorities. • Maintain a detailed and up to date resource mobilisation table available upon request (Dubai RLU). • Conduct a relief and logistics workshop for the Algerian RC staff and volunteers. • Liaise and coordinate actions with the local authorities and other key actors to ensure that the logistics operations utilize all information in order to be as efficient and effective as possible.

The primary tasks of the logistic team were to liaise and coordinate actions with the local authorities and other key actors ensuring a good coordination of the aid delivery. Algerian RC has maintained its mobilisation and distribution tables and has shared them with the headquarters and all the branches concerned.

The relief and logistics workshop was not been able to be conducted due to insufficient funding.

Conclusion

The Algerian RC has well-trained disaster management volunteers. Nevertheless, the turn over of volunteers in the last two years has been high and there is a need to re-visit and re-train the national intervention team and strengthen the headquarters' disaster management structure. The National Society has extensive experience in responding to flood emergencies and its operational capacity has been developed through a number of extensive disaster relief and preparedness programmes over the last few years.

The management of the emergency phase demonstrates how well prepared the National Society was to respond quickly and effectively to the disaster (strategic stock pre-positioning, effective mobilisation of neighborhood RC committees, rapid deployment of intervention teams and efficient management of volunteers and local donations, and strong coordination with other key players/partners).

However, despite having the experience in managing relief, there is still a need to strengthen further the management and response capacity. The National Society can rely on technical support from the International Federation's North Africa regional representation as well as the Zone disaster management

coordinator based in Amman to be better prepared as well as to strengthen further the disaster management capacity and skills of the National Society.

[<Final financial report below and contact details below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

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

MDRDZ001 - Floods in Ghardaia

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/10-2009/06
Budget Timeframe	2008/10-2009/04
Appeal	MDRDZ001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	809,626					809,626
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	10,599					10,599
<i>Hong Kong Red Cross</i>	5,237					5,237
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	26,700					26,700
<i>Libyan Red Crescent</i>	3,000					3,000
<i>Sweden Red Cross</i>	296					296
<i>Sweden Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>	88,628					88,628
<i>United Arab Emirates Red Crescent</i>	5,501					5,501
C1. Cash contributions	139,962					139,962
<u>Inkind Goods & Transport</u>						
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	75,301					75,301
<i>Sweden Red Cross</i>	4,561					4,561
C3. Inkind Goods & Transport	79,862					79,862
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	49,997					49,997
C5. Other Income	49,997					49,997
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	269,821					269,821
D. Total Funding = B + C	269,821					269,821
Appeal Coverage	33%					33%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	269,821					269,821
E. Expenditure	-269,821					-269,821
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

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Reporting Timeframe	2008/10-2009/06
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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)	809,626						809,626	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	200,000	111,871					111,871	88,129
Water & Sanitation	34,000	19,591					19,591	14,409
Teaching Materials	70,000							70,000
Utensils & Tools	130,000	65,917					65,917	64,083
Other Supplies & Services	60,000							60,000
Total Supplies	494,000	197,379					197,379	296,621
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	25,000	18,587					18,587	6,413
Computers & Telecom	7,300							7,300
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	32,300	18,587					18,587	13,713
Transport & Storage								
Storage		600					600	-600
Distribution & Monitoring		11,961					11,961	-11,961
Transport & Vehicle Costs	17,500	671					671	16,829
Total Transport & Storage	17,500	13,233					13,233	4,267
Personnel								
International Staff	60,000	693					693	59,308
National Staff		513					513	-513
National Society Staff	50,000							50,000
Total Personnel	110,000	1,205					1,205	108,795
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	60,000							60,000
Total Workshops & Training	60,000							60,000
General Expenditure								
Travel	14,000							14,000
Office Costs	5,200							5,200
Communications	2,000	1,097					1,097	903
Financial Charges	2,000	14,613					14,613	-12,613
Other General Expenses	20,000							20,000
Total General Expenditure	43,200	15,710					15,710	27,490
Programme Support								
Program Support	52,626	16,505					16,505	36,121
Total Programme Support	52,626	16,505					16,505	36,121
Services								
Services & Recoveries		7,201					7,201	-7,201
Total Services		7,201					7,201	-7,201
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	809,626	269,821					269,821	539,805
VARIANCE (C - D)		539,805					539,805	