

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Egypt: Cairo Rockslides

DREF operation n° MDREG007
GLIDE n° LS-2008-000153-EGY
10 September 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the International Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and 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.

CHF 249,198 (USD 221,153 or EUR 156,260) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Egyptian Red Crescent (Egyptian RC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 500 families (3,000 beneficiaries). Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged. An Emergency Appeal is considered and discussed to continue to support the affected community in the recovery phase.

Summary: Up to 200 people are feared to have been buried under their homes after rockslides crushed a shantytown in the eastern Duwayqa area on 6 September 2008. Reports indicated that at least eight boulders - each estimated to weigh about 70 tonnes - fell from the towering cliffs overlooking the district at about 09.00 local time (07.00 GMT). 51 people have been declared dead and 57 people injured. 50 homes have been destroyed in the impoverished and densely populated Manshiyet Nasr neighbourhood. Some people are believed to be still trapped under the rubble and the police have cordoned off the area. The toll is expected to rise drastically, considering the number of missing, the dust and the difficulty of the search and rescue operation (difficult access for heavy equipment, high tensions between local population and governmental authorities).



Search and rescue works are being carried out 24 hours. AFP.

The Egyptian RC immediately mobilized its intervention teams and volunteers. They were deployed soon after the collapse on the site to assist the authorities during the rescue works including the transport of injured to the four hospitals selected for the operation. Egyptian RC erected a temporary camp (50 tents) managed by the National Society's volunteers to gather the affected families. In addition, Egyptian RC staff and volunteers are in a position to provide first aid, food assistance and psycho-social support to the victims and the families.

This operation is expected to be implemented over two months, and will therefore be completed by 10 November, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 10, February, 2009).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Massive boulders crashed down on a shantytown on the outskirts of Cairo on 6 September, killing 51 people and burying many more under tons of rubble. The toll is expected to rise drastically; taking into consideration 50 homes had been crushed.

Rescue efforts - expected to last several days - are proceeding slowly as authorities break the giant rocks into pieces small enough to be hauled away. The army and emergency services are also trying to create narrow passages between the massive rocks to allow them access the remains below and bring in heavy earth-moving equipment.

Some of the rocks weigh more than 200 tonnes and it could take days to break them and lift them out of the way. The authorities issued an order for the evacuation of 4,000 families. The number of destroyed houses registered reached up to 50, and the number of victims couldn't be accurately estimated because there are still many victims trapped under the debris and the rescue operation is still in process. Hundreds of people could be missing as rescuers continue in a desperate race to find survivors of the tragedy, which struck on the first week of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan.

The government indicated that survivors would be transferred to new houses and given all the necessary aid. A first camp was built and managed by the army one kilometre away from the site where families living in houses at risk (fearing new rockslides) were evacuated. A second camp was built to host new families.

A temporary camp was erected by the Egyptian RC to accommodate the families and survivors whose houses were destroyed in the rockslides. So far, 110 families have been accommodated in the camps and more are expected to be registered in the coming hours and days.

Coordination and partnerships

The coordination with the authorities and other relief stakeholders is going on smoothly, increasing the effectiveness of the operation in a difficult and tense environment.

A national task force has been established and the National Society is part of the task force ensuring a close collaboration with the ministries of Interior, Civil Defence, Health and Solidarity, as well as with the army. After discussions, the registration of the families in the temporary camp erected and managed by the Egyptian RC was completed jointly with the local authorities. The Ministry of Health is supporting the National Society volunteers in the camp through the provision of basic health services.

As part of the psycho-social support to the affected people, more particularly children, it was decided to send the children to their schools as soon as possible by organizing the transport to their new schools in the area of relocation. Egyptian RC, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, was requested to support the transport component.

On 9 September, under the presidency of Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, president of the Egyptian RC, a meeting was held at the National Society headquarters with the government representatives to discuss the emergency situation on the site, in the camps as well as the relocation programme. The government is planning to re-settle 200 to 400 families in their new apartments within the next few days.

The North Africa regional office of the International Federation, through regular contacts with Egyptian RC, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), International Federation's Middle East/North Africa (MENA) zone and secretariat, and other stakeholders is able to facilitate the resource mobilization process as well as ensure a coordinated flow of information.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

200 Egyptian RC volunteers are currently working in the operation, being present on the site (supporting civil defense and local authorities in search and rescue work, and helping in accommodating the survivors in the temporary shelter erected and managed by the National Society); at the morgue (supporting the families); and at the four hospitals (supporting injured people as well as their families in administrative matters). The National Society staff and volunteers continue to provide first aid and psycho-social support to the survivors and their families. They provide 24 hours services in rotation.

The Egyptian RC temporary camp is now fully operational. With the new families being registered in the camps and additional ones expected, relief items such as tents, hygiene kits, mattresses, mats and basic household materials are urgently needed. The National Society stocks have been depleted and need to be re-constituted.



Relatives are looking for the people who are missing. AFP.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: Egyptian RC is planning to support 500 families (3,000 beneficiaries) in the temporary camp erected on the site for an estimated period of seven days. In addition, it will assist the families in the relocation settlement - the new apartments made available by the government - during a transitional period of one month. The most urgent needs are the ones of the families accommodated in the emergency camps, as they have lost members, homes and belongings, and are in deep shock.

The proposed operation

Immediate assistance is delivered by Egyptian RC intervention teams in emergency relief (food and basic non-food items), shelter, water and sanitation, emergency health, transport, logistics and restoring family links (RFL). The role of the National Society in this operation and the actual areas of intervention were discussed within the national task force and coordinated with other relevant stakeholders.

During the first days, Egyptian RC has been using its own relief stocks and has been managing local donations to cover the immediate needs. Following a needs assessment carried out by the Egyptian RC team, the National Society will continue to provide accommodation, food, basic health services, transport, logistics, and administration of the temporary camp. The RFL service will be reinforced in the camp, along with a psycho-social support cell.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: The specific quantity and quality of goods are distributed to the beneficiaries, according to the assessment and selection criteria that identified actual needs and vulnerable groups.

Activities planned:

- Re-evaluate the needs assessment conducted by the volunteers based on the latest developments.
- Re-locate the families based on the registration of the families in the temporary camp and distribute the food on the basis of the lists provided by the authorities.
- Replenish the National Society stocks as the tents, blankets, ground mats and mattress provided are not sufficient to host the new families.
- Distribute ready meals once a day during the Ramadan period.
- Start the relocation settlement and distribute basic items to the families (as mentioned earlier in the report, the support provided for the temporary camps is planned maximum for seven to 10 days in agreement with the local authorities).

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: Safe water and adequate sanitation is provided for two weeks to the beneficiaries in the temporary camps.

Activities planned:

- With the support of local authorities and the army, provide safe water to 300 families during the period the systems are insufficient in the temporary camp.
- Provide potable water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion (basic hygiene kits) to 300 families.
- Reconstitute relief stocks of Egyptian RC.

Psycho-social support

Objective: Psycho-social support is provided to affected families.

Activities planned:

- Establish a psycho-social support cell in the temporary camp in order to provide the necessary support to the affected people, to their families and to help them recover from the tragedy.
- Reinforce a RFL unit on the site to support families looking for missing relatives or friends or to inform families living in other provinces and governorates.

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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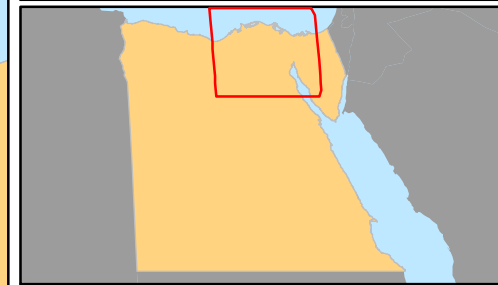
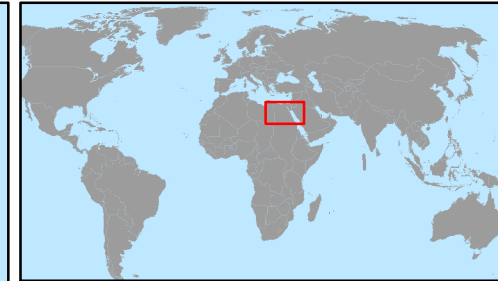
[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

Budget Summary - Egypt: Cairo Rockslides 2008

Item	Total Costs (CHF)
SUPPLIES	
Supplies	206,750
50 tents	24,150
300 Blankets	3,000
300 Mattresses	6,000
200 Ground mats	1,600
1000 Clothes	4,000
600 kitchen sets (cutlers, pots)	118,000
1000 Meals (ready made)	50,000
Water and sanitation	2,400
Hygienic Items	2,000
Protective material for volunteers	400
PERSONNEL	
Personnel national staff	600
National staff/ salary Reporting and Documentation	600
Personnel National Society staff	17,290
National society Incentives volunteers	11,250
National society Incentives volunteers/ evaluation session	1,527
National society Incentives volunteers/ PSP debriefing session	2,500
National society Incentives volunteers/ reporting session	2,013
Workshop and Training	2,000
Restoring family/links (Activity)	2,000
GENERAL EXPENDITURE	
Travel costs	3,300
local transport fees/ evaluation session (transport and food)	1,100
local transport fees/ evaluation session (transport and food)	1,100
local transport fees/ evaluation session (transport and food)	1,100
Office Running costs	300
Stationery/ evaluation session	100
Stationery/ PSP debriefing session	100
Stationery/ Reporting session	100
Other General expenses	360
Sundry admin exp evaluation session	120
Sundry admin exp PSP debriefing session	120
Sundry admin exp reporting session	120
Program Management Support (6.5%)	16,198
Total CHF	249,198



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Rockslide in Cairo