

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tunisia: Flash Floods

DREF operation n° MDRTN003
GLIDE n° FF-2009-000204-TUN
29 September 2009

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the 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 160,749 (USD 155,105 or EUR 106,435) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Tunisian Red Crescent Society (Tunisian RC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,100 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

A mix of tornadoes and flash floods has affected South and East Tunisia leading to serious damages in the country in the last couple of days. The coastal cities of Monastir, Sousse and Mahdia were among the first to be affected, followed by the region of Tozeur, Gafsa, Gabes, and Tataouine. 17 people have lost their lives, an unspecified number of people are missing and hundreds are left homeless. A national task force was set up immediately and regular contacts are maintained with the Tunisian RC secretary general and disaster management coordinator. Volunteers from the National Society were deployed and five assessment teams were sent to the southern region to support the branches in the evaluation process and identification of needs. Tunisian RC is using some stocks of clothes donated by the Swedish and Finnish Red Cross Societies in 2008.



A mix of tornadoes and flash floods has affected Tunisia leading to serious damages in the country in the last couple of days. **International Federation.**

This DREF operation is aiming to support the Tunisian RC in the areas of basic relief items distribution, emergency health, and logistics.

This operation is expected to be implemented over six months, and will therefore be completed by 31 March 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 June 2010).

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

The situation



The recent rainfall in Tunisia caused a rise in the water levels of streams, cutting off several roads and causing material damage. **International Federation.**

On 22 September, floods resulting from heavy rain in many parts of Tunisia killed 17 people, left many others wounded and an unspecified number of people are missing. The most affected are mainly from the south-western locality of Redeyef in the mining region of Gafsa, which is located in the low-lying area of a mountainous zone. The floods have affected many other regions of Tunisia, particularly in northern, central and southern Sahel. Many roads have been cut due to the floods in valleys in the areas of Sidi Bouzid, Mahdia (center) and Sfax (south).

According to the meteorological services, the volume of rainfall which exceeded 150 mm within one hour was accompanied by stormy winds of more than 100 km per hour in some places. This

caused a rise in the water levels of several streams. Buildings were submerged, several roads cut off, leading to the mobilization of Air Force planes and helicopters. Those affected and currently without shelter are being accommodated in temporary sites set up by the government.

The six regions most affected are Gabes, Gafsa, Monastir, Mahdia, Sfax and Tozeur. By this time of the year, Tunisia normally enjoys dry season but heavy rains have fallen for days across the North African country and in its neighboring countries.

Coordination and partnerships

The government of Tunisia is managing the overall response. The head of state called for the mobilization of all the means available to reduce the scale of the damage and to provide first aid supplies to the disaster victims. A national emergency task force was established. According to the national disaster plan, Tunisian RC is part of this task force under the umbrella of the Ministry of Health. An inter-ministerial mission (ministers of social affairs and solidarity; public health; and equipment and housing) was deployed on the same day to help in conducting damage and needs assessments, to supervise rescue operations being undertaken by units of the armed forces, civil protection and the national guard, as well as medical teams. The different departments have organized relief and rescue for disaster victims whose homes were flooded. The regional commission to fight against natural disasters of Gafsa is operational and all human and material resources are mobilized to fight against the floods.

For the first time, an early warning messages campaign was initiated by the Ministry of Interior and organized in the capital of Tunis through phone messages as a storm was expected in Tunis on 25 September. The campaign was successful, well followed and welcomed by the people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Crescent committees, as auxiliaries to the public authorities and active player within the national disaster plan, were immediately contacted by the local governorates and integrated in the local disaster emergency cell, working in close collaboration with local governorates officials and with the civil defense teams. The local representatives of the Tunisian RC were quickly present on the affected sites with the local authorities and have reported their initial assessments to the headquarters. Volunteers were mobilized in the six affected governorates to support the civil defense in the evacuation of the families to temporary shelters, transportation of the injured people to medical structures, provision of first aid and psycho-social support, as well as distribution of food and non-food items from the National Society's own stocks.

Five Tunisian RC evaluation teams were posted in Kasserine, Gafsa and Sfax, in order to evaluate damages, identify needs and work with the local authorities on the selection of beneficiaries.

Since the very beginning of the disaster, the Tunisian RC and the International Federation's regional representation for North Africa were in close contact in order to monitor the situation and assist the National Society in its action. An alert report was posted on the disaster management information system (DMIS) website on 25 September.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: The Tunisian RC, in close consultation with the local authorities, has selected to support 850 families (5,100 beneficiaries) affected and most at risk. From the six governorates affected, the Tunisian RC will assist the most vulnerable families - 500 in Gafsa, 100 in Kassrine, 100 in Sfax, 100 in Monastir, and 50 in Mahdia. The National Society will provide them with relief items such as food parcels, beds, mattresses and blankets. The operation responds to the needs identified during the assessment and will complement the actions undertaken by the public authorities.

Clothes were also identified as immediate needs. Thanks to the annual Finnish Red Cross in kind donation received recently, the Tunisian RC has been able to assist the victims in meeting their needs. The National Society is planning to distribute more clothes from its own stocks in the following days. The volunteers have also started with health and hygiene promotion activities.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: The specific quantity and quality of goods are distributed to the 850 families/5,100 people, according to assessment and selection criteria that identified actual needs and vulnerable people.

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments
- Procure and distribute relief supplies (food parcels, blankets, mattresses, bed camps, hygiene kits)
- Replenish the National Society's local emergency stocks used during the emergency phase
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions

Emergency health

Objective: Basic health care is provided to the affected people as well as psycho-social support when needed. The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through hygiene promotion to 850 families/5,100 beneficiaries in the six governorates affected by the floods for six months.

Activities planned:

- Provide basic health care and psycho-social support to people in need and ensure restoring family links (RFL) services.
- Conduct training/information programmes for Red Crescent volunteers and beneficiaries, in particular regional hygiene promotion, disease identification and referral advice
- Manage and conduct community awareness activities focusing on good hygiene practices and floods preparedness and readiness

Logistics

Objective: The Tunisian RC is supported in the procurement process and the distribution of the goods.

Activities planned:

- Procure goods
- Store and transport relief goods
- Print floods awareness material
- Organise a refresher logistics course for Tunisian RC volunteers

The Tunisian RC has benefited from the support of the International Federation within the framework of the MENA disaster management strategy in the form of training. The Tunisian RC has a strong experience in responding to floods-related disasters, relief operations and social mobilization and has a good network of volunteers who help to manage community distributions and sensitization activities.

In order to benefit from this experience, the regional representation plans to organize an evaluation workshop with the participation of the Tunisian RC coordinators and volunteers involved in the operation, in order to appraise the operation, and reflect on the lessons learnt and future steps to be taken.

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:

- In Tunisia: Dr. Tahar Cheniti, Secretary General, Tunisian Red Crescent; phone: + 216 71 320 630; fax: + 216 71 320 151; email: hilal.ahmar@planet.tn
- In Tunisia: Anne Elisabeth Leclerc, Head of Regional Representation, Regional Representation for North Africa; phone: + 216 71 862 485; fax: + 216 71 862 971; email: ae.leclerc@ifrc.org
- In Jordan: Martin Faller, Acting Head, Middle East and North Africa Zone Office, Amman (temporary); phone: +962 6 5694911; fax: + 962 6 5694556; email: martin.faller@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator, Operations Support Department; phone: +41 22 730 4381; fax: +41 22 730 0395; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

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

DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

TUNISIA FLASH FLOODS 09

MDRTN003

BUDGET CHF

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	84,800
Food	22,000
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	11,000
Total Relief Needs	117,800

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings
Vehicles Purchase
Computers & Telecom Equipment
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.
Medical Equipment
Other Machinery & Equipment

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	500
Distribution & Monitoring	2,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	
National Staff	1,000
National Society Staff	5,000
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	15,000
----------------------	--------

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	
Information & Public Relations	4,000
Office running costs	2,000
Communication Costs	500
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	500
Other General Expenses	

SERVICE FEES

Service Fees

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

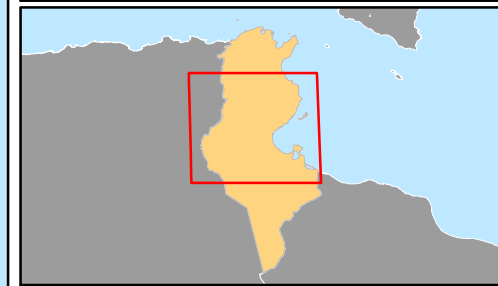
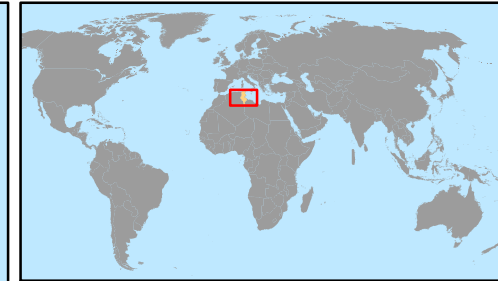
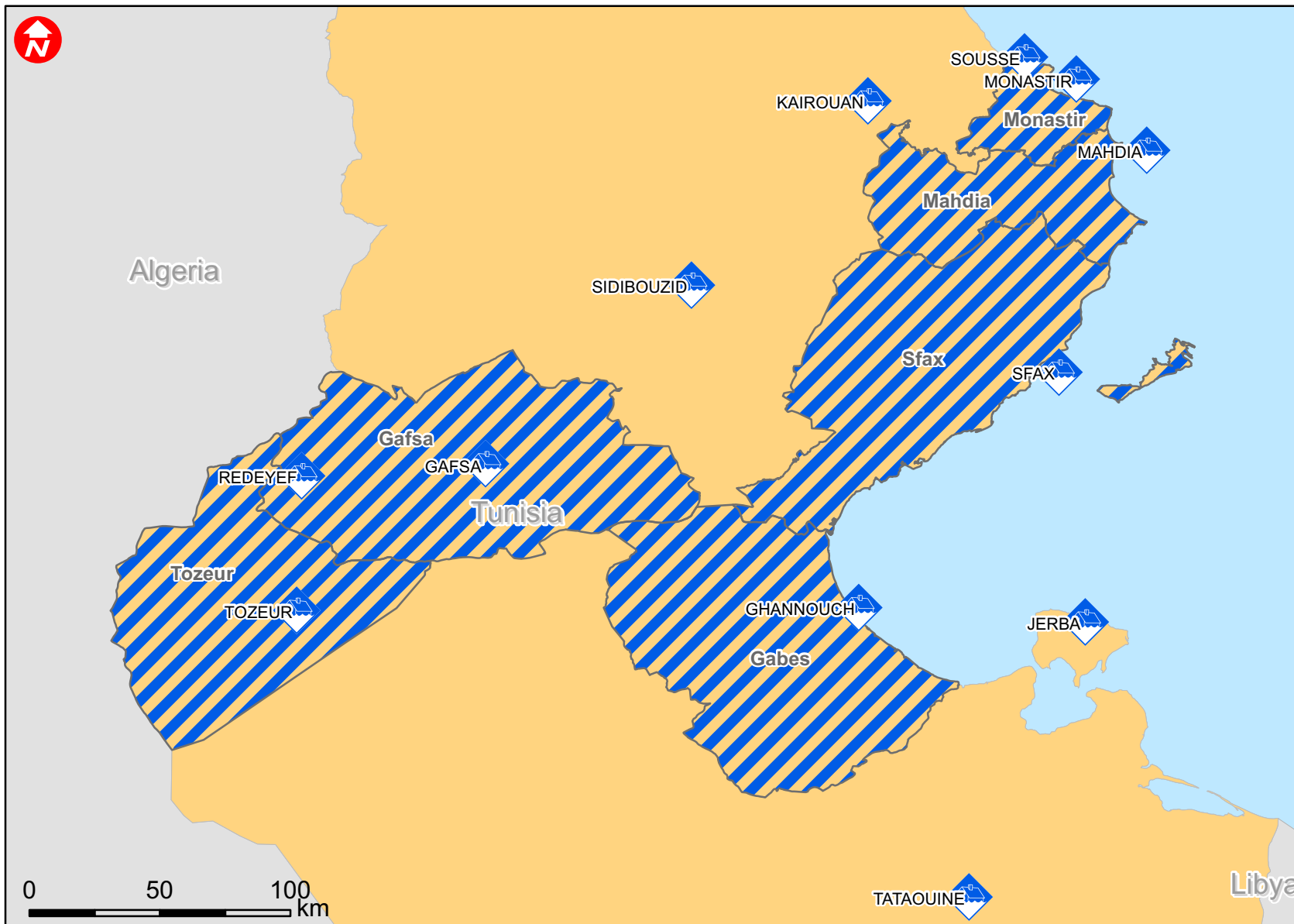
Programme Support - PSR	10,449
-------------------------	--------



Total Operational Needs **42,949**

DREF ALLOCATION **160,749**



Tunisia: Floods



-  Affected cities
-  Most affected regions