

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Egypt: Flash Floods

DREF operation n° MDREG009  
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000012-EGY  
21 January 2010

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 257,914 (USD 246,525 or EUR 175,360) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (Egyptian RC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,500 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

### Summary:

Heavy wind and rains affected parts of Egypt, the Gaza Strip, Israel and Jordan since 18 January, sweeping away homes, knocking out power lines and cutting roads. Torrential rains in Egypt have claimed the lives of 12 people, left many injured and hundreds displaced by rain-induced flooding in the Sinai Peninsula, the Red Sea port of Hurghada and Aswan Governorate in southern Egypt. A great number of houses in four regions in Egypt (North Sinai, South Sinai, Red Sea and Aswan) have been severely hit by these flash floods. Some 3,500 persons (500 households) have been evacuated. The heavy rains are expected to continue in the next few days with storms moving north and west towards Cairo and the Mediterranean coast. Access to the flooded areas remains a challenge for emergency workers due to roads being submerged.



**Heavy rainfall has caused floods across Egypt including Al Arish, the area close to the border with Gaza. Photo: Egyptian RC**

The Egyptian RC established national and local emergency cells, and immediately mobilized its intervention teams and volunteers to support the affected families through the provision of relief assistance (first aid, psycho-social support, and distribution of relief items the National Society's pre-positioned emergency stocks). The DREF allocation will be mainly used to replenish the stocks of the Egyptian RC as well as to ensure appropriate preparedness and response capacity for the concerned branches in order to secure an efficient service delivery to the affected communities.

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

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

## The situation

The heavy rainfall across Egypt has caused floods affecting most of the country. Houses have been swept away and 57 electrical towers have collapsed in cities and villages. Main roads were closed throughout the country and telephone and power lines were cut.

Heavy flooding has seriously affected several communities from the Sinai Peninsula and in Aswan. The resorts of Taba, Nuweiba and Sharm El Sheikh on the Red Sea had temporary blackouts. The Sharm El Sheikh airport was closed for several hours after rains destroyed part of its ceiling, and the city's main telephone communications centre was severely damaged.

The general authority for Red Sea ports said that the ports of Ain Sokhna, Al Adbeya, El Ataka, El Zayteyat and Port Tawfik are all closed because of the bad weather. In Aswan, power outages put the entire city in darkness. Nearby villages were hit as the mud-brick houses of peasants were swept away by flood waters and hundreds had to evacuate.

According to the assessment of the Egyptian RC volunteers at branch level:

- In **North Sinai**, Arish suburbs have been severely damaged. Six people have lost their lives and hundreds are injured. The central governmental hospital in Arish was flooded and patients were partially evacuated to nearby hospitals.
- In **South Sinai**, heavy rains interrupted the main roads. Two people have lost their lives and 16 are injured. Mild damage has occurred to some Sharm El Sheikh buildings and several areas around Ras Cedr City were isolated.
- In **Red Sea area**, roads were interrupted by heavy rains. One person is killed and few mild injuries occurred. Mild damage has been recorded in suburbs of Hurghada.
- In **Aswan**, three people have lost their lives and 14 are injured. Damage to several villages has been reported.

At least, 3,500 people (500 families) have been affected or are homeless.

## Coordination and partnerships

The government of Egypt and the civil protection, through its emergency mechanisms for disaster response, is dealing with the flooding in order to mitigate the impact, considering possible deterioration of the situation in the coming days.

The Egyptian RC immediately mobilized its volunteers in the concerned branches, organized its intervention team to provide immediate assistance to affected communities, helped people to evacuate, and provided them with basic first aid, needed relief items and psycho-social support when needed. The local branches were part of the emergency task force established at local level, coordinating and cooperating closely their operation with the governmental and local authorities. Governmental bodies established teams to rescue and evacuate the population. The armed forces of Egypt are part of the rescue operation considering the nature and the impact of the disaster, and are helping and providing rubber boat transportation in affected areas.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Egyptian RC immediately reacted to this disaster, in line with its mandate and internal capacities. The National Society's disaster management department has been and is constantly communicating with the branches as well as with the governmental institution in charge of rescue, which is coordinating the operation both at central and local level.

100 volunteers were mobilized in the four affected regions to support the civil defence in the evacuation of affected people to temporary shelters, transportation of injured people to medical structures, and provision of first aid and psycho-social support. They provided food and non-food items from the National Society's own basic relief stocks. As of 19 January, the following items were distributed in the affected regions:

- 3,000 blankets
- 100 tents
- 1,000 mattresses
- 1,000 pillows

- 500 ground sheets
- 1,000 bed sheets

Additional distributions are planned following the ongoing assessments made by the Egyptian RC intervention teams. The International Federation's regional representation for North Africa is monitoring closely the operation with Egyptian RC officials. Regular reports and exchange of information are shared to follow up on recent developments.

## The needs

**Selection of people to be reached:** From the four regions affected, according to the preliminary list of the affected population created together with the local authorities, the Egyptian RC will assist 500 families (3,500 people).

Items such as food parcels, tents, blankets, jerry cans, clothes, beds, mattresses, pillows, ground sheets, and bed sheets will be provided again if needed or used to replenish the National Society stocks.

## The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
<p><b>Objective: Food and non-food relief items are distributed to the 500 families from Egyptian RC warehouses and non-food items are procured to refurbish the National Society's relief stocks.</b></p>
<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Procure and distribute relief supplies.</li> <li>• Refurbish National Society stocks that were distributed by Egyptian RC volunteers.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> </ul>
Emergency health
<p><b>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 500 families (3,500 beneficiaries) in the four regions affected by the floods for six months.</b></p>
<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide basic health care and psycho-social support to people in need and ensure restoring family links (RFL) services.</li> <li>• Conduct training/information programmes for Red Crescent volunteers and beneficiaries, in particular regional hygiene promotion, disease identification and referral advice.</li> <li>• Manage and conduct community awareness activities focusing on good hygiene practices and floods preparedness and readiness.</li> </ul>
Logistics
<p><b>Objective: The Egyptian RC is supported in the procurement process and the distribution of the goods.</b></p>
<p><b>Activities planned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure goods.</li> <li>• Store and transport relief goods.</li> <li>• Print floods awareness material.</li> <li>• Organise a refresher logistics course for Egyptian RC volunteers.</li> </ul>

The Egyptian 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 Egyptian RC has an experience in responding to floods-related disasters, relief operations, social mobilization and has a good network of volunteers who help to manage community distributions and sensitization activities.

The regional representation plans to organize a series of capacity building workshops for Egyptian RC coordinators and volunteers involved in the operation to improve the staff performance of the National Society in the several phases of the operation - in assessing the current situation, monitoring the operation

and increasing the service delivery to affected people. It will include a post disaster evaluation workshop to reflect on the lessons learnt and future steps to be taken. Awareness materials focusing on floods preparedness and the impact of climate change will be produced and used during the distributions.

## 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 Egypt: Prof Dr. Mamdouh Gabr, Secretary General, Egyptian Red Crescent Society, Cairo; phone: +20 22 6703979; fax: +20 22 6703967; email: [erc@egyptianrc.org](mailto:erc@egyptianrc.org)
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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

**DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY**

Annex 1

**DREF FLOODS IN EGYPT****MDREG009****BUDGET CHF****RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter (Tents, Tarpaulines)	76,250
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles (Mattresses, Blankets, Bed Sheet, Pillows)	121,200
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>197,450</b>

**CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

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

**TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES**

Storage - Warehouse	1,500
Distribution & Monitoring	500
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,000

**PERSONNEL**

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff (100 Volunteers, ERCS Coordinators, Drivers)	12,000
Consultants	

**WORKSHOPS & TRAINING**

Workshops & Training (Evaluation, Floods Awareness, Relief refresher course for volunteers involved in the operation)	15,000
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**GENERAL EXPENSES**

Travel	
Information & Public Relations	10,000
Office running costs / Project Administration	
Communication Costs	500
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	200
Other General Expenses	3,000

**SERVICE FEES**

Service Fees	
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**PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

Programme Support - PSR	16,764
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**Total Operational Needs** **60,464**

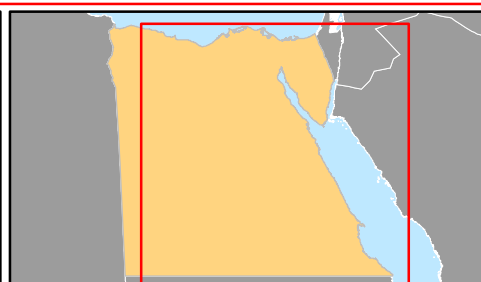
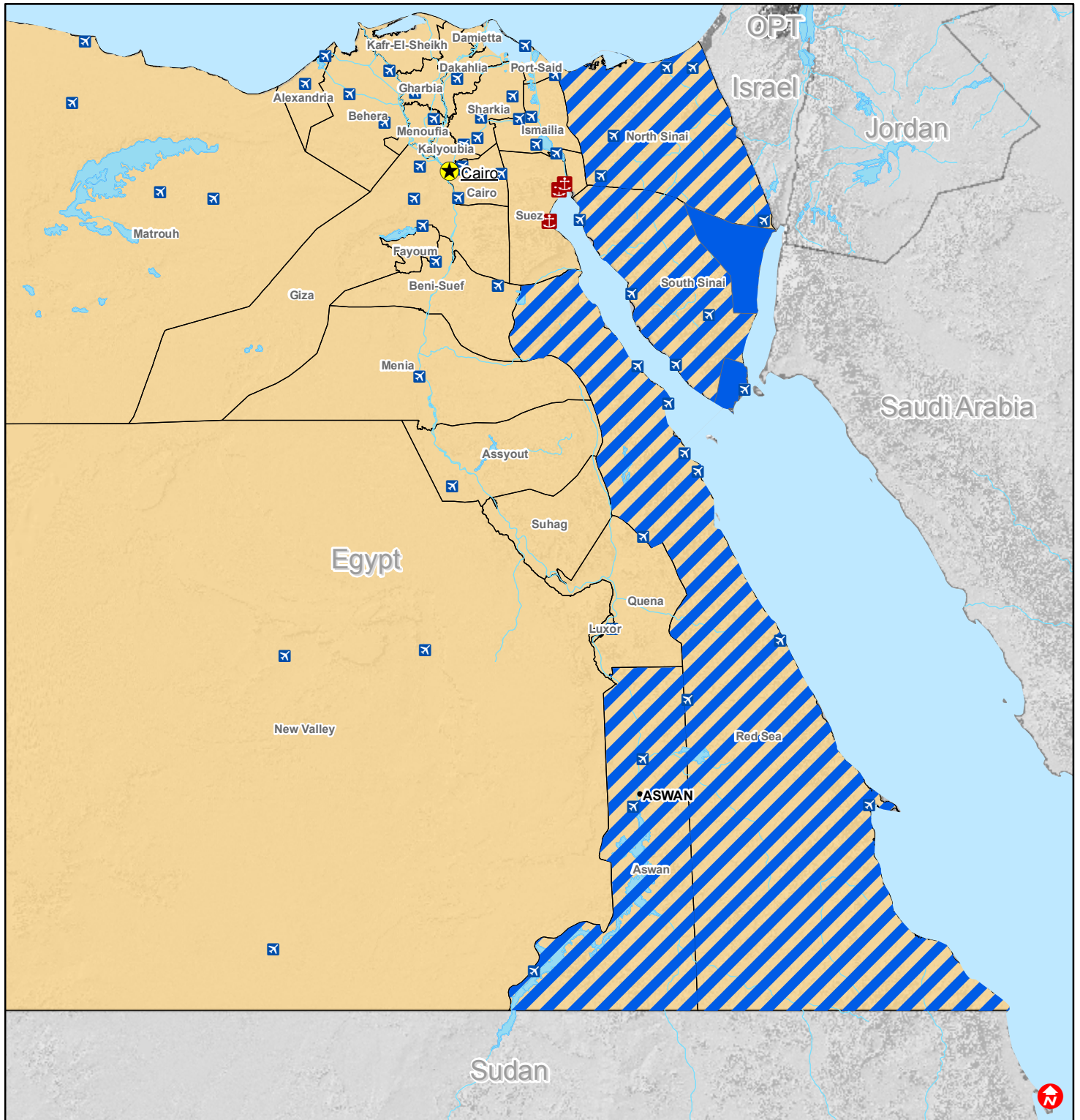
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**DREF ALLOCATION** **257,914**

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# Egypt: Flash floods



- ★ Capitals
- ✚ Ports
- ✚ Airports
- Rivers
- Most affected areas
- ▨ Affected areas
- Lakes
- Regions