

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Lebanon: Plane Crash

DREF operation n° MDRLB002
GLIDE n° OT-2010-000017-LBN
3 February 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 emergency response. 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 23,701 (USD 22,454 or EUR 16,094) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Lebanese Red Cross Society (Lebanese RC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 450 beneficiaries (90 families). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

An Ethiopian aircraft crashed into the Mediterranean Sea shortly after takeoff from Beirut International Airport on 25 January 2010, Monday. The Boeing 737-800 aircraft was carrying 82 passengers and eight crew members from different nationalities, 51 of whom were Lebanese.



Lebanese Red Cross volunteers transported the bodies of the victims to Rafic Hariri University Hospital in Beirut. Photo: Lebanese RC.

Lebanese RC emergency medical services (EMS) workers as well as ambulances were mobilized as of 3.00 AM local time on 25 January to the Beirut International Airport, the Military Naval Base, the Rafic Hariri University Hospital as well as to the coastal road along the shore. At the time of writing this bulletin, the EMS teams have transported 15 bodies and some human remains as well as provided first aid services to the grieving families gathered at the airport and the hospitals. This DREF allocation will support the Lebanese RC with emergency response items (gloves, masks, body bags, blankets, disinfectant liquids and disinfectant hand gels); generators; telecommunication equipments (VHF); food items for EMS volunteers; and assist in covering the fuel expenses of the ambulances as a result of the extra missions. Some items procured will also be used to replenish the stocks of the EMS stations. The National Society, in case asked by the government, will respond to the psycho-social support needs.

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 31 July, 2010).

[<click here for the DREF budget, or here for contact details>](#)

The situation

On 25 January, at 2.35 AM local time, an aircraft of Ethiopian Airlines (flight ET409) disappeared from radar five minutes after take off and crashed into the Mediterranean Sea. The aircraft left the Rafic Hariri International Airport of Beirut, the Lebanese capital, and was heading to Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The Boeing 737-800 was carrying 82 passengers and eight crew members. Among the passengers were 51 Lebanese, 23 Ethiopians, two Britons and citizens from Canada, France, Iraq, Russia, Syria, and Turkey. The plane crashed approximately 3.5 kms west of the town of Na'ameh, which is located 15 kms south of Beirut.

According to the officials, the cause of the crash is not clear, but is speculated to be due to the extreme weather conditions caused by heavy rain and thunderstorms. Almost a week after the crash, only 15 bodies are found and the rescue efforts are continuing to find the others as well as the black box of the plane. Mourning families are hoping for the bodies to be found as soon as possible. The Ministry of Health has deployed a team of psychologists to the airport where families gathered to get information about their missing family members.

Coordination and partnerships

Lebanese RC is part of the national committee for disaster management of the Lebanese government, and has two coordination lines. The first one is external with the government operation room which includes the army, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and the entire rescue and emergency providers.

The second one is internal, where the EMS stations and ambulances report to the Lebanese RC operation room which provides updates and information to the headquarters of the National Society. Since the first day of the disaster, the headquarters is issuing daily situation updates and closely cooperating and sharing information with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC).

During the field operations, the Lebanese RC EMS teams were mandated to provide first aid services to the grieving families gathered at the airport and the hospitals as well as to transport the bodies of the victims from the airport and the navy base to the hospitals. Lebanese RC volunteers and ambulances were the only first aiders allowed into the navy base.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Mobilization

Since the first hours after the disaster, the Lebanese RC proved full readiness to respond to the disaster, rescue any possible survivors and transport the bodies that were found. The EMS mobilized its stations, volunteers and ambulances in the first 72 hours as the following:

Day	Number of stations	Number of first aid workers	Number of ambulances
1	15	100	25
2	11	70	14
3	7	30	6

In the days that followed, and since the search was taking time with no results, the EMS decided to keep the teams inside the stations and deploy them based on the new information. The current mobilization is eight stations, and one to two additional teams a day.

Response

The EMS distributed its teams between the Rafic Hariri International Airport, the Military Naval Base, Rafic Hariri Hospital and the Lebanese shore. As mentioned above, the EMS provided on spot first aid mainly at the international airport to the grieving families, and during the first three days have transported two urgent cases to the hospitals. In addition, the teams have transported 15 dead bodies from the International airport and the naval base to the hospitals. Four transports of human remains were also conducted.

Psycho-social support and restoring family links (RFL)

Since the name of dead and missing people are clear as per the statement of the airlines, the government, along with the governments of other countries (mainly Ethiopian), are coordinating in order to conduct the needed DNA tests to identify the bodies and deliver them to their families. Lebanese RC psycho-social support teams and RFL group are alerted and ready to start their work if need be.

The needs

Regarding the current situation, additional expenses occurred and additional items are needed in order for the EMS teams to be ready and continue responding to the ongoing situation as long as it is needed. In this regard, the Lebanese RC has identified the needs in the following areas:

- **Equipment** for the removal and transport of dead bodies as well as electrical generators and telecommunication equipments to enable Lebanese RC to establish field posts.
- **Extra allowances** to provide the EMS workers with food taking into consideration that there are around 25 volunteers mobilized each day.
- **Additional fuel** to cover the costs already incurred by extra missions, and new fuel costs expected if the situation remains the same.

The proposed operation

Human Remains Management
Objective: The volunteers from EMS stations of Lebanese RC have transferred the victims of the disaster to the hospitals.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procure 16,000 gloves, 8,000 masks, 160 body bags, 270 blankets, 20 gallons of disinfectant liquids (five litres), and 20 gallons of disinfectant hand gels (five litres) for the EMS stations to support their response to the disaster and replenish their emergency stocks.• Procure three generators to increase the capacity of the EMS to establish field posts.• Procure six VHF radios and six VHF handy for the involved stations.• Procure food for an average of 25 EMS volunteers involved in daily operations for 15 days.• Provide daily 20 litres of fuel for eight ambulances involved in the operation for a period of 15 days.• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on the operation.

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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

- For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**
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DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

Lebanon: Plane Crash

MDRLB002

BUDGET CHF

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles (Blankets)	1,985
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid (Gloves, masks, body bags)	4,922
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services (Desinfectant liquids/ Hand Gel)	378
Total Relief Needs	7,285

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment (VHF Radios)	3,569
Office/Household Furniture & Equip. (Generators)	3,465
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicles Costs (Fuel for Ambulances)	2,722

PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff (food for EMS volunteers)	5,119
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel
Information & Public Relations
Office running costs
Communication Costs
Professional Fees
Financial Charges
Other General Expenses
Food cost

SERVICE FEES

Service Fees

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR 1,541

Total Operational Needs 16,416

DREF ALLOCATION 23,701
