

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Morocco: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRMA003
GLIDE n° 2009-000265-MAR
18 March 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 200,000 (USD 188,555 or EUR 137,415) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Moroccan Red Crescent Society (Moroccan RC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,000 families (10,000 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

Over the last months, heavy rains in Morocco have claimed hundreds of lives and forced more than 6,000 people to be evacuated. The victims, across northern and central Morocco, died as rivers rose or houses were swept away/collapsed due to the landslides. In addition, the infrastructure and agriculture were considerably damaged. Hundreds among those evacuated are in temporary shelters, receiving food and non food relief items and basic medicine.

The floods have affected several provinces of the country. The worst hit are the Gharb and the Souss regions. Recently, other regions like the northern region, Tadla, and Middle Atlas were drastically affected as well. The devastation is much worse in the rural areas, where homes are unable to withstand the effects of heavy flooding and snowfalls. Morocco's weather forecasters have warned that the rains and the cold wave are set to continue through the coming weeks.

The Moroccan Red Crescent (Moroccan RC) has been operational in the Gharb region, supporting affected victims in four temporary shelters. With the deterioration of the situation in several other provinces in the northern and central areas, affecting more communities, the National Society intervention through its volunteers in the field has increased. The Moroccan RC has procured relief items (blankets, hygiene kits, basic medicines) and items for psycho-social support programme (PSP) activities. This DREF allocation will support the Moroccan RC in assisting 2,000 families (10,000 beneficiaries) with relief items and in emergency health. So far, the Moroccan government has not been requesting any official international assistance.

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

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



Five of the 16 administrative regions of Morocco have been severely affected by the recent floods in the country.

The situation

Nearly two months after the first flash floods in December in the region of Souse-Massa-Draa and in the Gharb (Kenitra), the situation remains difficult for the Moroccans. Despite the large assistance deployed by the authorities in the several provinces affected by continuous and heavy rains, the populations continue to live in a precarious environment. Hundreds of families were transported and moved to temporary shelters into the forest Maamoura between Kenitra, Sidi Yahya and Sidi Allal Tazi Sidi Slimane. According to latest statistics from the provincial authority, more than 6,000 mud houses have been affected by the recent flooding caused by overflowing of the rivers, which lead to the displacement of over 6,000 families and their livestock. Significant resources were mobilized by the civil protection, security national gendarmerie royale, and the royal armed forces.

The most affected region is the Gharb plain. The Moroccan government currently has prioritized aid to the population (setting up of shelters, distribution of food and non food items as well as health services) and support in the agricultural sector. Moroccan RC has so far mobilized resources and relief items for 500 families. Four temporary camps located in Sidi went Tazi (45 Km to Kenitra), Morgan (27 Km to Kenitra), Sidi Ayach (15 km to Kenitra) and Sidi Slimane (60 km to Kenitra) were erected by the authorities to provide shelters to the families.

Al Hoceima suffered from heavy snow and heavy rainfall during the last days. The storms caused damages in several municipalities. Houses have collapsed, several roads and trails were closed, and some remote douars are now isolated. The Middle Atlas region was also hit by torrential rains affecting towns of El Ksiba (250 Km south of Rabat), Taza, Midelt and Tetouan. Substantial material damages were recorded in Khenifra in particular which was already hit hard last month. More than 400 homes were flooded from the waters which also washed away a bridge and caused the closure of several roads.

In the province of Azilal in the Middle Atlas, snow caused the collapse of many roofs and the small town of Ait Abdi was affected the most, resulting in several persons losing their lives. The Sousse region (Agadir, Taroudant and its surrounding) has continued to suffer from the floods as well, which have resulted in road cuts, power cuts, and difficulties in provision of relief assistance to remote communities.

Another consequence of the floods was the collapse of the Minaret at the Mosque of Meknes, At least 40 people were killed and more than 70 people were injured in this accident. Moroccan RC volunteers were present with the local authorities to provide basic first aid, psycho-social support and transportation for the wounded.

Coordination and partnerships

The Moroccan government has been providing assistance to the affected population and is supporting the repairs of the infrastructure (roads, bridges, electricity, water pipes, etc.). A budget of 600 million dirhams (approximately USD 73,538,000) to repair roads and bridges damaged was recently released by the government. 215 million dirhams (approximately USD 26,355,000) were allocated by the Moroccan government to support the agricultural region in the north-west of Morocco. 90,000 hectares of Gharb region, which represents 90% of the cultivated land, was severely flooded a month and half ago. The agricultural sector in Morocco employs nearly 40% of the workforce.

In the meantime, national task forces were established at national and local level closely coordinating the emergency and rehabilitation operation with the different stakeholders (inter ministerial coordination as well with the coordination of non-governmental organisations and the civil society). The North African regional representation is closely monitoring the situation through field visits¹ and continuous contacts with the National Society through its projects director and disaster management coordinator.

¹ Two field visits were organized in February in the Gharb and the Souse Region. The community based coordinator is currently monitoring the situation together with the Moroccan RC disaster management coordinator and the president of the regional committee in Kenitra.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Moroccan RC is part of the national disaster plan set up and collaborates well in its auxiliary role with local authorities, health services, civil defence, and armed forces in the field of assessment, relief, delivery of food and non food items, provision of first aid, transport and psycho-social support.

Since the floods outbreak in December 2009 the Moroccan RC, through its regional and local committees, was present immediately on the sites mobilizing and organizing the intervention teams, and establishing close contact with the central headquarters to report on the needs assessment. The first aid posts were established in close coordination with health authorities in the different provinces. Thanks to the disaster preparedness programme (IDWARC) and a policy from Moroccan RC to keep its basic preparedness stocks ready, the National Society had a relief stock available for 2,000 families. This stock has been used during the last three months. Part of the stock was re-furnished through a DREF allocation granted in early January in the amount of CHF 75,652. The European Union Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has been supporting financially this operation through a contribution to the Federation's DREF (EUR 30,000).

In December 2009, the relief operation was primarily focusing on the Sousse-Massa-Draa region (Agadir, Taroudant) in assessing the needs and collaborating with the authorities on distribution of food and non food items (blankets and mattresses) as well as providing first aid, psycho-social support and transport facilities to the affected people. In January and February, the region of the Gharb was severely affected and the situation has deteriorated in the end of February/beginning of March in the northern and central provinces. A cold wave is currently affecting rural areas in the Tadla region. The situation remains critical in all these provinces due to the high level of the rivers, dams and the overflowing of the dams. The houses build with mud are fragile and the access to remote areas are difficult.

The Moroccan RC has been active since January in managing temporary shelters (four camps in the cities of Kenitra and surroundings), as well as shelters when needed using the facilities of the municipalities (gymnasiums, schools, administrations). In the field of health, Moroccan RC volunteers were involved together with the health services in a significant number of medical campaigns. Mobile medical teams have been operating in 11 districts most threatened by the cold wave, providing not only basic medicines but also organizing health awareness campaigns in the context of influenza prevention. 11,748 persons were vaccinated since December 2009.

Based on the request of local authorities in the Gharb region, the Moroccan RC provincial committee has implemented several Red Crescent posts ensuring a 24 hours duty in the four temporary camps which are providing the following services:

- a) Provision of psycho-social support (animation for children under five years old - school/kinder garden programmes targeting 300 beneficiaries and animation for children over five years old - school programmes including games and animation competitions)
- b) Organisation of hygiene awareness programme (distribution of leaflets and trash bags to promote healthy lifestyles and environmental health, involving beneficiaries in maintaining the cleanliness of camps)
- c) Distribution of food items (flour, oil, sugar, butter, rice, tea, etc.), non-food items (blankets, mattresses and basic medicines for the health posts), hygiene kits (soap powder, soap, diapers, etc.) and warm clothing (1,000 families in total)
- d) Establishment of health and first aid posts in collaboration with the health authorities to provide basic health services in the temporary camps

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: The selection of beneficiaries is done with the local authorities based on the list of people registered. For security reasons, distributions of food and non food items are organized on a basis of these lists and in presence of the authorities.

The Moroccan RC has been in a position to respond so far to the communities' needs using its own relief stocks and mobilizing its volunteers. As the situation has been deteriorating, Moroccan RC interventions have increased in the newly affected region and the National Society is seeking for financial support to

continue to assist communities in need (1,500 families) in several provinces of Morocco and to partly reconstitute its emergency stocks for 500 families. Unfortunately, the return of displaced people to their home is not likely to happen immediately, thus, schools, health and security services were organized and reinforced in those temporary camps by the Moroccan authorities. The risks of houses need to be assessed and checked and the relocation of affected populations may take months. A recovery and rehabilitation programme is currently discussed in the national and local task forces with the authorities and contingency plans are implemented and reviewed according to the latest developments.

The urgent needs are the following:

- Food items (no stocks are available)
- Relief items (blankets, mattresses, and hygiene kits)
- Medicines for first aid posts
- Clothes (to be distributed from in kind donations of Swedish and Finnish Red Cross Societies)
- Incentives for National Society (including transport and food for volunteers and per diem for staff)
- Transport, warehouse, and storage costs
- PSP items and activities (toys for children, activities for women and elderly)
- Awareness campaigns on health and risk reduction (printing posters and flyers)

The proposed operation

The DREF allocation will be used to procure and distribute food and non food items, to reconstitute basic stocks of Moroccan RC, and to provide essential services such as first aid and psycho-social support. In the region of Gharb, the Moroccan RC will continue to manage one of the temporary shelters and assist the authorities in the three other ones.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
<p>Objective: Food and non-food relief items are procured, stored and distributed to cover the needs of 2,000 families.</p> <p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to assess the needs and monitor the emergency situation • Procure relief items (1,000 food parcels, 4,000 blankets, and 1,500 mattresses) • Distribute relief items to affected communities (for 1,500 families) in temporary shelters in the most affected regions (Souss-Massa-Draa, Gharb region) as well as in the newly affected regions upon request of Moroccan RC branches • Reconstitute Moroccan RC stocks with the remaining items procured (for 500 families) • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions
Emergency health
<p>Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of hygiene promotion to 1,500 families in three regions affected by the floods (Souss-Madrasa-Draa, Gharb, northern region).</p> <p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure 2,150 hygiene kits (1,150 kits to be pre-positioned in the Gharb region for distribution to families hosted in the temporary shelters and 1,000 kits will be stored in emergency stocks) • Provide psycho-social support to affected communities with a special focus on children, women and elderly (procure children toys to be used by the volunteers for PSP activities in the camps) • Procure basic medicines to be used and distributed and organise first aid activities in the Moroccan RC health posts established in the temporary camps • Organise awareness campaigns on hygiene promotion, water borne diseases, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) through the health posts

Logistic costs and incentives for National Society staff and volunteers are also budgeted to cover the transport, storage and handling fees of the goods as well as the per diem and transport of Moroccan RC volunteers mobilized for 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 budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

DREF FLOODS IN MOROCCO**MDRMA003****ORIGINAL****RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	79,000
Food	25,000
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	5,000
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	5,000
Other Supplies & Services	47,300
Total Relief Needs	161,300

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

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

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	8,000
Distribution & Monitoring	2,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	3,500

PERSONNEL

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

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	
Information & Public Relations	3,000
Office running costs	3,000
Communication Costs	1,500
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	493
Other General Expenses	

SERVICE FEES

Service Fees

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

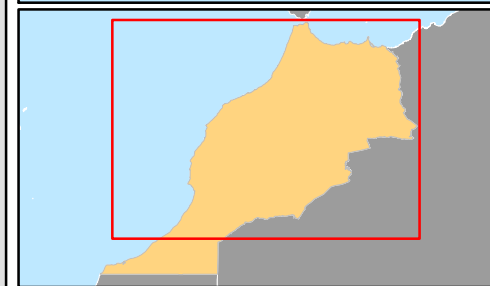
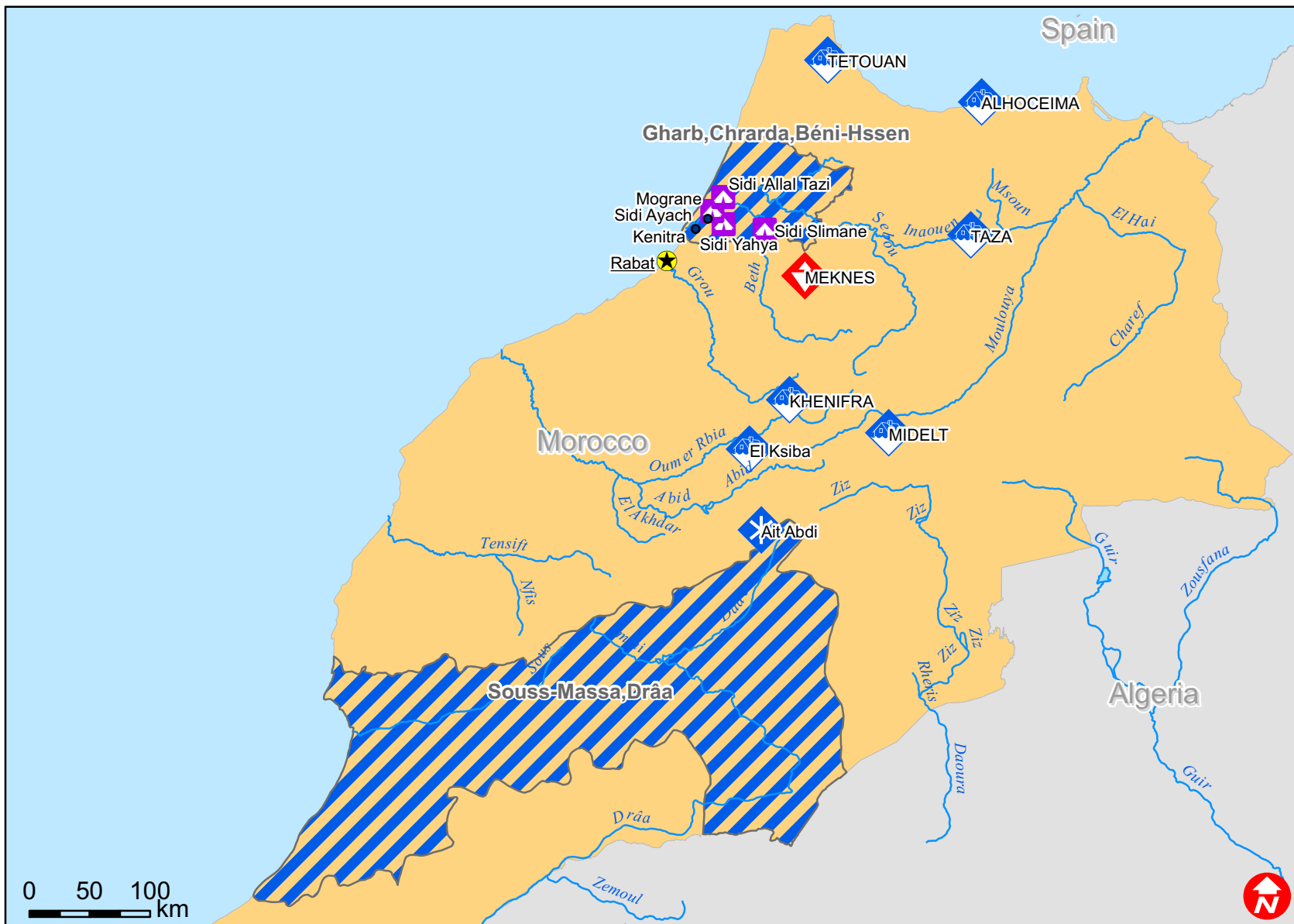
Programme Support - PSR	12,207
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Total Operational Needs **38,700**

DREF ALLOCATION **200,000**



Morocco: Floods



-  Collapse
-  Snow
-  Floods
-  Other places mentioned
-  Camps