

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Palestine: Flash Floods

DREF operation n° MDRPS004
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000015-PSE
27 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 68,271 (USD 65,380 or EUR 46,402) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Palestine Red Crescent Society (Palestine RC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,500 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The operation is planned to enable the Palestine RC to ensure initial humanitarian response to the most vulnerable among the flood victims in Gaza. The DREF support will focus on basic relief needs through the provision of items such as blankets, mattresses, and hygiene kits.

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).



The population affected by the floods received relief items from the staff and volunteers of Palestine RC. Photo: Palestine RC

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

The situation

From the late night of 18 January 2010 and the following 24 hours, torrential rains hit the Gaza Strip and Almughraqa, causing heavy floods in huge parts of this densely populated and poor area. The situation has been worsened by the flooding of water from the green line area which borders the Gaza Valley.

As a result, the Wadi Gaza, a low lying farming area situated to the south of Gaza City and mostly inhabited by Bedouins, was severely affected for an area of an approximate distance of 1,000 meters on both sides, until the Sea of Gaza.

The ground was not able to absorb the huge mass of water, which washed away sand, dust, and garbage filling the ground floors of the homes with contaminated dirty water, mud and garbage. Among the worst hit areas was where the poorest of the poor people in the Gaza Strip were located, living in their simple shelters

and houses, making life more difficult for the Gazans who are still unable to rebuild their lives after last year's Israeli war on the Gaza Strip.

The Gaza Strip, along the south-eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, is a flat landscape with the size of only 365 km², of which a broad area all along the border to Israel is inaccessible for the Palestinian people.

On this tiny small land, more than 1,5 million Palestinians live, of whom more than 1 million are registered as refugees who for most of them live in camps. After the 2008/2009 war conducted by the Israeli forces and the severe and widespread destruction of infrastructure and households, the conditions of the local populations were, if possible, much worsened and the pre-existing tight closure already imposed on the Gaza Strip has been further tightened. Fuel, medicine, food, building materials, and all kind of commodities, even such as spare parts, maintenance equipment, and pumps for the sewage systems have not entered the Gaza Strip, worsening the prevailing vulnerability conditions. In such an environment, it is very difficult to be properly prepared for and cope with the rainy season and this kind of extraordinary weather. With the Gaza Strip being under closure for years, the economy is close to complete collapse, and there are no means available in the municipalities or among the poor people to meet other demands than the most essential items for survival. For all what above, the effects of such heavy rains and the resulting floods have a devastating impact on those being hit the worst.

More intense rains are expected in the region. Should this coincide with further opening of dams, the resulting flooding could well interest different areas in the Gaza Strip in North Gaza (such as the Erez crossing, Seafa area, the Bedouin village, Jabalia camp and Abu Wadi al-Rashid); the town Gaza area (beach camp, North camp, Sheikh Radwan (East), Al-Zaytoun); the central Gaza area (Alberka area, Almashala, Bassa, the new camp, Mughraqa, Wadi alsalqa); as well as the South area (Alsatar alsharqi, Alsatar algharbi, Akkad, Alkateeba, Alqarara, the camp, Block A, baten alsameen and Raboat, Mawasi). All these areas have been targeted for the early warning intervention of Palestine RC. Further stocks will be repositioned to be able to meet any needs created by the further flooding (preparedness for imminent crisis).

Coordination and partnerships

After years of closure of the Gaza Strip, and one year after the Gaza war, the Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement partners, as well as United Nations (UN) agencies and governmental bodies, have only limited resources for bigger relief operations. In the current relief operation, the Palestine RC is taking the lead in close cooperation with the UN agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and with the support from the Federation representation in Palestine. Apart from the ICRC, the Palestine RC is the only component of the RC/RC Movement with permanent presence in the Gaza Strip.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



In line with the needs assessment, Palestine RC distributed relief items to the homeless families in Mughraqa and Joher Al Deik. Photo: Palestine RC

Immediately after the floods, the Palestine RC activated the operations room, started early warning activities addressing the main exposed communities and mobilized its volunteers and staff. The operations room centralized communications and appeals from the affected areas and coordinated the evacuation of casualties from the area with the emergency ambulance service.

The first two assessment teams and a team of support and evacuation, together with an ambulance, arrived to the Mughraqa area. At the same time another group arrived to Joher Al Deik. The floods have caused complete destruction of five houses, partial destruction of 11, and many more houses have been partially flooded.

homes and 85 had to be displaced because their households were flooded) to a school located in a safe area. The relocation was done in coordination with the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) of the Al Mughraqa, Nuseirat camp.

In Mughraqa, the Palestine RC teams, together with civil defense, evacuated approximately 100 families directly affected by the floods (15 families lost their

In the meantime, both in Mughraqa and Joher Al Deik, the Palestine RC has distributed relief items and tents for the homeless families. The Palestine RC has deployed around 50 volunteers to the field in order to evacuate the elderly, sick, and disabled people from the affected areas. The operation has been coordinated from the operational room at the Palestine RC Gaza City branch.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached: The operation will focus on the most vulnerable of the affected population.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
<p>Objective: Palestine RC ensured timely response based on the priority needs of the beneficiaries and provided basic relief items according to the results of the assessments conducted by the National Society.</p>
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop beneficiary targeting and registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • Replenish stocks used in the first hours of the relief operation (blankets, mattresses and hygiene kits). • Preposition relief supplies. • Mobilize and equip volunteers. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions (including beneficiary satisfaction surveys and lessons learned for volunteers and National Society staff).

<p><i>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.</i></p>	
<p>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".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

<p>For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Palestine: Mr. Younis Al-Khatib, President, Palestine Red Crescent Society, Ramallah; email: younis@palestinercs.org; phone: +972 2 240 65 15; and fax +972 2 240 65 18. • In Palestine: Mr. Giorgio Ferrario, Representative, International Federation Representation, Ramallah; e-mail: giorgio.ferrario@ifrc.org; phone: +972 2 240 04 84/85; and fax: +972 2 240 04 84. • In Jordan: Martin Faller, Head of Operations, Middle East and North Africa Zone Office, Amman; 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
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DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

PALESTINE: FLASH FLOODS**MDRPS004****BUDGET CHF****RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles (Blankets)	23,953
Clothing & Textiles (mattresses)	14,420
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services (Hygiene kits)	18,692
Total Relief Needs	57,065

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

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

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	1,041
Distribution & Monitoring	521
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,041

PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	3,124
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	
Information & Public Relations	
Office running costs	
Communication Costs	1,041
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	

SERVICE FEES

Service Fees

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	4,438
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Total Operational Needs **11,206**

DREF ALLOCATION **68,271**
