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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Morocco/North Africa: Cold wave

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRMA005 14 February, 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 148,035 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,500 families (7,500 beneficiaries) living in rural areas affected by winter conditions in two regions of Morocco and to replenish the Moroccan Red Crescent's emergency stock. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

An exceptional cold wave hits Morocco these recent days, causing a situation of distress of thousands of people throughout the kingdom. Food and blankets are basic needs to be distributed in this emergency situation. The Moroccan Red Crescent, in coordination with the National emergency committee, will support 1,500 families (7,500 beneficiaries) in the Region of Oriental and Taza Al Hoceima Taounat. Four localities of Figuig, Taza, Al Hoceima and Taounat will be targeted by the distribution operation of food parcels, blankets and mattresses.



Al Hoceima region is one of the affected areas in the Northern Morocco. Photo: **MRCS (Moroccan Red Crescent Society)**

This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will therefore be completed by 10 April, 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 10 July, 2012). [<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details >](#)

The situation

The cold wave that affects the last few days Morocco will persist until the end of the week with a peak on Wednesday and Thursday, as announced by the national weather forecast service.

Going about this, the result of a polar air mass that passes through the eastern and central Europe affects northern Africa from Tunisia to Morocco. Minimum temperatures have broken records for the month of February in several regions with low degrees, and very rarely for years, recorded. The temperature was close to minus 7 degrees Celsius on the mountainous regions, from -1 to 3 on the middle and 5 to 8 on the coast.

As consequence, roads and mountain passes were blocked by snowfalls, the electricity was interrupted and some houses suffered structural damages. In addition, with low temperatures, water pipes froze, interrupting the water supply in many regions.

Most parts of the Kingdom felt this unusual cold wave. Given this situation, local authorities and relevant departments have mobilized needed human and material resources (governmental services with different ministries) and operated since Monday several interventions to help and assist the most affected population.

The Moroccan Red Crescent will intervene in two regions to assist 1500 families (7500 beneficiaries) providing food and non food items. Those regions are: Oriental and Taza Al Hoceima Taounat in four localities. The table below shows with -more details- the locations:

Region	Localities	Distance from Rabat (the capital)	Needed time to reach the locality by car in normal weather conditions (approximately)
Oriental	Figuig	851 Km	9 h 30 min
Taza Al Hoceima Taounat	Taza	306 Km	3h
	Al Hoceima	465 Km	5h
	Taounat	284 Km	3h

Coordination and partnerships

The Moroccan government has provided assistance to the affected population in the early days of the cold wave. The contingency plan was activated Wednesday February 8th in the provinces of Beni Mellal and Azilal, and especially localities into difficult terrain.

This operation involved 11,000 households spread over 154 Villages in provinces mentioned above and these households will receive blankets and food appropriate to the winter season. A number of criteria were put to select beneficiaries as: families with no income (unemployment), families living below the poverty line, Homeless persons and old persons, as well as the level of isolation of villages.

Because of the large number of families to assist, the government looked for the associated movement to contribute in this national solidarity operation in order to alleviate the sufferance of the affected population.

The assistance plan is organized with the participation of the Royal Armed Forces, the (Gendarmerie National) and the Ministry of Interior, which will deploy staff for "Promotion National" (national initiative for human resources development) National Reconstruction, and with input from King Mohammed the fifth Foundation fund for Solidarity. The Moroccan Red Crescent has been involved as usual in this plan and has been assigned to cover affected areas.

To meet the needs of this exceptional cold wave affected population, the Moroccan Red Crescent is requesting support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to provide relief in the form of food and non-food items to affected families.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Moroccan Red Crescent Society (MRCS) is part of the national contingency plan in place and is working well in ensuring its role as auxiliary to the government with local authorities, health services, emergency preparedness, and the Royal Armed Forces in the field of assessment, emergency delivery of food and non-food items, the provision of first aid, transport and psychosocial support.

Through its branches and its headquarters, MRCS has evaluated the situation closely with the authorities in the affected areas.

More than 70 trained volunteers are operational in the field, and are supporting families in several localities and villages especially in the province of Azilal, Beni Mellal, AL Hoceima, Taza, Taounate and Figuig. Relief items and various food items are distributed from MRCS's emergency stock.

This operation will be implemented in areas where the cold wave was the most severe, mainly: Al Hoceima, Taza, Taounate and Figuig, and assistance will be provided by staff and volunteers through the distribution of 2 blankets, 1 food parcel and 1 mattress per family. For the reminder, these families have already benefited from in-kind donation last year during flooding that hit these regions.

80 volunteers will be spread over the four distribution sites to organize the operation and ensure that all registered families will receive the support as expected.

The needs

In coordination with the authorities and all stakeholders and according to the first rapid assessment, the Moroccan Red Crescent has been requested to cover the four areas indicated above. The same need of food, clothes and heating devices have been listed everywhere.

Region	Locality	Nbr of families	Nbr of packages (01 blanket, 1 food parcel, 01 mattress)
Oriental	figuig	250	250
Taza Taounat Al Hoceima	Taza	500	500
	Al Hoceima	500	500
	Taounate	250	250

The composition of parcel food for one family (5 members) for two weeks:

Items	Quantity
Flour 2 X 10 KG	20 KG
Sugar	5 KG
Soja oil	5 L
Tea	500 G
Rice	3 KG
Chickpea	2 KG

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Outcome: Providing emergency assistance (basic food and non-food items) to 1,500 families (approximately 7,500 people)
Output: The essential needs of 1,500 families are met.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuous cooperation with the local and national emergency committees• Mobilization of staff and volunteers in the 2 regions (4 localities) the most affected.• Preparation of the distribution plan.• Local procurement of emergency items• Distribution of emergency items by the Moroccan Red Crescent staff and volunteers according to beneficiaries' identification and targeted list.• Monitoring and evaluation

The National Society's Headquarters, in close cooperation with the IFRC Regional Office, will monitor the progress and provide the necessary technical expertise to the operation. Visibility of the work of the Moroccan Red Crescent staff and volunteers will be ensured during the operation through the local media. Operation updates will be published later on.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Gerard Lautredou, + 216 71 862 485; mob: + 216 71 862 971; email: gerard.lautredou@ifrc.org
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- **Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):**

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC MENA Zone:** Paul Emes, Head of Support Services, Phone: + 961 71 802 911, Email: paul.emes@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- **In IFRC Zone:** Ms. Hadeel Halasah, PMER, Email : hadeel.halasah@ifrc.org



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How we work

All IFRC 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 IFRC'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.

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The IFRC'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.
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Budget Group	CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	66,000
Food	52,500
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	118,500
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machiney & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Dsitribution & Monitoring	2,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,000
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	5,000
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	
Volunteers	10,000
Total PERSONNEL	10,000
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	

Information & Public Relations	
Office Costs	3,000
Communications	2,000
Financial Charges	500
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	5,500
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	9,035
Total INDIRECT COSTS	9,035
TOTAL BUDGET	148,035