

DREF operation n° MDRPS005 12 March 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 106,394 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 7 March, 2012 to support the Palestine Red Crescent Society in delivering assistance to some 2,400 beneficiaries, and partly to replenish the used contingency stocks.

[<click here for the DREF budget;](#)
[here for contact details;](#)

Summary: Large parts of the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) were hit by exceptionally heavy storms that resulted in the evacuation of more than 300 families from their houses due to floods and major damage in the houses located in the districts of Gaza, Hebron, Jenin, Salfit, Ramallah and the Jerusalem area beyond the separation wall.



A Palestine Red Crescent Society Disaster Management team on its way to affected communities in the district of Hebron. Photo: PRCS

The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) responded to more than 172 humanitarian cases in these cities by delivering assistance in the form of mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, plastic sheeting and tarpaulins to approximately 1,123 persons. With additional storms expected to hit the region the PRCS expected an additional 100 will need relief assistance, thereby increasing the total to 400 families.

The situation in the oPt is unique, including the overall scope of humanitarian challenges, and the provision of shelter (emergency or transitional) in particular requires careful consideration. This DREF request and allocation have been made in full accordance with the humanitarian needs generated by the floods taking, and take into account the humanitarian challenges of the current environment.

This operation is expected to be implemented in two months, and completed by 6 May 2012. In line with

the Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 06 August, 2012). The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

The situation

The PRCS activated its four operation rooms to monitor the heavy winter storms which hit the oPt from 28 February onwards. PRCS also coordinated closely with the Civil Defense and District Governorates on the issue. On Friday 2nd of March, the situation has worsened. The heavy and continuous rains had a particularly heavy impact on the districts of Gaza, Hebron, Jenin, Salfit, Ramallah and the Jerusalem area beyond the separation wall.

In many areas, including Hebron, Ramallah and Jerusalem, the heavy rain took the shape of snowstorms, recording its maximum during the weekend. Due to the large quantities of rainfall, which surpassed 125% of the average rainfall during previous years, the level of rain absorption by the land is reduced.

PRCS immediately deployed rapid needs assessment teams to assess the needs of the most affected communities. Based on the initial assessments, and in coordination with the local Governorates' Emergency Committee (of which PRCS is part), the PRCS volunteers started emergency relief items distribution (mattresses, blankets, Hygiene kits, kitchen kits, plastic sheeting and tarpaulins). The total of 172 families, or 1,123 persons, benefited of these distributions as of 7 March 2012. While data are still being gathered, these include 31 households and 193 persons in the communities of Jabah, Alhan Ahmar and Beit Hanina in the Jerusalem district; 23 households and 136 persons in Ein Qinya and Bir Nabala in the Ramallah and al Bireh district; 13 households and 102 persons in Sousia in the Hebron district; 8 households and 102 persons in Ibzeq in the Jenin district; and 60 families for 381 persons in Gaza. In one case, the Governorate was able to provide unfurnished apartments for an affected family and PRCS provided mattresses and blankets for them. PRCS teams are continuing their visits to more remote localities and assessing needs.

In the case of the houses close to the separation wall, some houses were flooded due to their proximity to the wall which impeded the rain to flow away. In the case of Jerusalem and Hebron, some of the affected persons are Bedouin refugees who live under the threat of a forced displacement and have long been impeded to upgrade their living conditions.

PRCS teams are continuing needs assessments. The latest in Tubas showed a need for 200 mattresses, 200 blankets, 100 tarpaulins, 25 kitchen and hygiene sets. UNICEF through their local partner has provided PRCS with 100 blankets and 4 rolls of 4.5m wide tarpaulins, which are being distributed by PRCS branch together with PRCS's own stocks.

The ongoing rain and low temperatures affected the already difficult living conditions of the persons in the mentioned areas. It has been announced that a new rainstorm will hit the country by 11 of March, and PRCS intends to continue providing emergency relief to the affected families and be ready for any possible needs that might emerge from the coming storm. The target of the operation has been set to 400 families, in order to continue securing basic non-food items such as kitchen sets and hygiene sets to families being identified during ongoing needs assessments that have temporarily moved away from their flooded house and be ready to bring relief to new victims during the announced new storm.

Coordination and partnerships

PRCS is a member of the coordination mechanism that was initiated by the Palestinian authorities (Civil Defence, CD) and has long been supporting the CD in contingency planning. In addition, PRCS jointly with UNRWA has convened an emergency preparedness session by the end of 2011. The UN Agencies, the RCRC Movement, and the CD in oPt participated in this meeting which aimed at measuring each organization's levels of preparedness and contingency planning capacity.

OCHA has established a cluster system in Palestine, and appointed cluster leads in Gaza strip and West bank, according to the different needs in the each area.

The information sharing channels between PRCS and the Federation have been open with ICRC, and the latter offered its support to PRCS should it need so. In addition, the ongoing initiative to establish clear roles

and responsibilities in case of conflict and disasters has been helping to define pragmatically how best to join efforts and play a coordinated role.

PRCS invited all stakeholders (CD, UN OCHA, UNRWA, West Bank cluster leaders) to a coordination meeting to discuss the current emergency together with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (PNSs, ICRC and IFRC); the meeting took place on 5 of March at PRCS headquarters. During the meeting all partners shared information about their activities to reduce any risks of duplications. UN OCHA had approved 2 projects from the HRF mechanism as a mitigation measure before the rains, and its implementing partners distributed some relief items (3 blankets, 3 mattresses and a heater) to some hundreds families. UNRWA distributed blankets and heaters to some 70 affected families in refugee camps in the West Bank and 88 refugee households in Gaza. Both UNRWA and UNICEF confirmed they linked with PRCS and made available to PRCS some relief goods and in the case of UNRWA, also logistic capacities. It was decided that PRCS will share with the rest of partners the findings of the ongoing needs assessment and to initiate a new coordination mechanism during the foreseen storm where CD, OCHA and UNRWA will have a representative in the PRCS Operation Centre. This exercise will identify the challenges and gaps in coordination. Finally it was also agreed to hold regular monthly or bi-monthly Disaster Response Coordination Meetings.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PRCS has already distributed relief goods that it holds as emergency stocks. These comprise tents, blankets, mattresses, kitchen kits, hygiene kits, and gas heaters. Although only 16 families received tents so far, this is mainly due, especially in Gaza, to the fact that the place where the affected families are located is still flooded, and there are no spots where people could easily be relocated. In some other cases, families have been given temporary shelter in transitional apartments, but this will not be a lasting solution. It is expected that more families will need additional non-food items. While blankets and mattresses have been already made available for PRCS distributions by other agencies, this is not happening for shelter and kitchen sets. In light of the forecasted storm, PRCS aims from this DREF to replenish its stocks and better prepare to provide additional support for the announced new rainstorm, in addition, some more families are expected to erect tents after the land dries to replace their demolished shelters.

Communities under areas B and C (which account for approximately 82% of the West Bank according to 1993 Oslo agreements) very rarely receive building permits from the Israeli authorities to upgrade, improve or rebuild their houses, which in some cases represents an increased vulnerability for those families living in structures not apt to face natural hazards. In the case of Bedouins, even tents erected without the previous authorization are usually immediately destroyed. Finally, due to the current occupation of areas B and especially C, the Palestinian authorities have been unable to properly mitigate some of the recurrent effects of flooding or prepare properly against them.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Outcome: provide up to 400 families affected by the floods with a first set of non-food items.
Outputs and activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally purchase 1,000 blankets, 1,000 mattresses, 400 kitchen kits, 400 hygiene kits, and 50 gas heaters. • Replenish the PRCS emergency stocks • Distribute the purchased NFIs and relief material in case needed
Emergency shelter
Outcome: provide up to 50 families affected by the floods are provided with emergency shelter (tent).
Outputs and activities planned: The DREF includes the purchase of 50 family tents, produced and purchased locally. The tents that will be purchased will replenish the PRCS used stocks. Should the situation not require any more emergency distributions of tents beyond the replenishment of stocks, other alternative, cheaper and more appropriate solutions will be studied in line with the recommendations of the shelter working group recently established by PRCS together with the Federation, UN Habitat, ACTED, the Civil Defence, ICRC and OCHA. This working group focuses on shelter issues for the West bank, and technical discussions on how best provide quality transitional shelter after the emergency response will be part of this working group. The planned activities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of up to maximum 50 locally produced and purchased tents, • Maintain the newly established Shelter working group that aims at discussing post emergency shelter issues.

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

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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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Saving lives, changing minds.



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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DREF OPERATION

13/03/2012

MDRPS005 Palestine: floods and cold wave

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	26,200
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	38,700
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	6,900
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Ustensils & Tools	14,300
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	86,100
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	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,900
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	3,900
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	1,200
Volunteers	7,400
Total PERSONNEL	8,600
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	
Information & Public Relations	
Office Costs	
Communications	1,300
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	1,300
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	6,494
Total INDIRECT COSTS	6,494
TOTAL BUDGET	106,394