

Information bulletin

Israel: Complex Emergency

Date of issue: 11 July 2014	
Date of disaster: 7 July 2014	Point of contact : Chaim RAFALOWSKI, Disaster Management Coordinator
Operation start date: 7 July 2014	Expected timeframe: to be decided
Host National Society(ies): Magen David Adom Israel	
Number of people affected: 3,000,000	Number of people to be assisted: 100,000
N° of other National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): -	

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Magen David Adom in Israel, will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

The situation

After two weeks of escalation of the tension around Gaza, the Israeli military launched a military operation on 7th July to cease the rocket attacks against Israeli territory. As a result, a significant escalation occurred, with hundreds of rockets launched to the range of 150 km from Gaza, and the lives of about 3,000,000 Israeli inhabitants have been threatened. Due to the extensive use of the rocket interception system "Iron Dome" no significant human losses or damage have been recorded so far. Significant restrictions on daily life of the public in the 40 km area from Gaza are in place in order to minimize the risks. No public gatherings are allowed, mass transportation is reduced, and activities are mainly conducted in places that meet the Home Front Command requirements for safety.

Critical units in the hospitals in the 40 km area have been moved to sheltered locations.

Rockets have been launched to the directions of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and its surroundings up to 150 km from Gaza.

In this area, the local authorities have opened the public shelters. There are no restrictions on public activities in this area, but the public are called by the authorities to stay vigilant.

So far (during four days of the high intensity conflict) more than 300 rockets have been launched, and about 60 of them have been intercepted. MDA has treated two severely injured persons as well as about 100 patients suffering from stress-related symptoms and 30 persons with minor injuries.

The situation is escalating further, with more attacks aiming at larger distances as the days pass by. According to the media, no secession of hostilities is expected in the coming days.



MDA team caring for the sick and injured using personal protective equipment under the threat of rocket attacks

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Magen David Adom in Israel is on its highest level of alert and the relevant contingency plan has been activated.

All the operation centres are working from sheltered facilities with extra personnel. All the ambulances in the range of 150 km from Gaza are manned and on call, summing up to about 650 ambulances (basic and advanced life support) on call. Volunteers have been mobilized nationwide to support the operation.

MDA ambulance teams are responding to all the rocket attacks, providing first aid, medical care and transportation as needed and psychosocial support to the victims. The teams are on high alert to treat casualties from possible hit of rockets in densely populated areas (where the rockets are targeting) or any other multi casualty incidents that might unfold. Youth volunteers' activities in the areas affected by the rocket attacks have been suspended. Measures have been taken to minimize the risk to the team members including the mandatory use of personal protective equipment – helmets and flak jackets. Security briefings are done at the beginning of every shift, and over the radio for every emergency situation response.

MDA blood services are working from sheltered facilities, both for the blood processing as well as for the storage. A strategic stockpile of blood units and blood components is maintained.

MDA is coordinating closely with the Movement partners, including the ICRC and the IFRC.

The activities in the field are coordinated at the national level with the relevant ministries and heads of response agencies (Police, Fire & Rescue, Home Front Command) as well as with the local authorities and local directors of the response agencies.

As the situation is escalating, MDA is prepared for a long conflict, ready to meet the needs of those affected by the on-going rocket attacks, and ready to respond to any incident that may evolve as part of this conflict.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In MDA Israel:** Chaim Rafalowski, EU Project and Disaster Management Coordinator, phone +972 3 630 222/281, email: haimr@mda.org.il
- **IFRC Europe Zone Office:** Evgeni Parfenov, Head of Operations, phone: +36 1 888 45 22; mobile phone +36 70 953 77 22; email: evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance, phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org

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.