

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ALGERIA: STORMS & FLOODS

15 November 2001

Appeal No. 35/01

Launched on 12 November 2001 for CHF 2,034,000 for up to three months.

DREF Allocated: CHF 100,000

Beneficiaries: 6,000 families

Operations Update No. 1 Period covered: 12 November - 15 November

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 61.6%

Related Appeals: Middle East North Africa regional programmes 01.64/01

Outstanding needs: CHF 782,000

The Disaster/Situation: The Algerian Red Crescent Society, with the support of the Federation, has responded quickly and effectively to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in the immediate aftermath of the storms and floods that hit Algeria on 10 November. Several National Societies have responded in a coordinated and impressive effort but more needs to be done and additional assistance is required.

Operational Developments:

After several months of drought, torrential rain and strong winds of up to 211kph caused huge mudslides and floods on Saturday 10 November in the capital Algiers and other villages, particularly in the coastal zones. The effects still being felt. The Algerian Red Crescent Society (ARCS) was at the forefront of essential relief operations in areas where assistance was most needed.

Reports have put the death toll as high as 600. ARCS also estimate that thousands have been injured, and the number of homeless is about 30,000. ARCS has set up relief centres at sites sheltering homeless families and distribution of food supplies and materials is occurring at these places. A total of 1,261 people have been assisted in villaya d'Alger, Hammamet and Oued Korich. Another 1,173 families received food and relief in villaya de Tipazar. An estimated 4,000 families in total have so far benefited from assistance from ARCS.

The government has housed 117 families as part of the government's response to the disaster and a further 1,500 houses have been prepared to receive those who have been made homeless.

The government has released 5 million dinars (CHF 23,000) to the relief operation and each member of the government has contributed 20,000 dinar to a special fund for food.

The government has put in place an emergency camp and the ARCS has been mandated as the coordinator of humanitarian aid. The civil defence force is actively cleaning up affected areas. The government has also put in place dedicated telephone lines with a special number for people to call for information concerning the disaster. The Ministry of Telecommunication has set up mobile telephone communications on the affected sites to facilitate the relief operation.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

ARCS has mobilised part of the relief supplies that are most needed. One thousand volunteers - comprising 120 relief specialists, 400 activists and 13 medical teams, each with one doctor and three nurses and psychologist - have been mobilised. The ARCS headquarters is coordinating all activities. A five-strong field assessment coordination team (FACT) has deployed. More heavy rain is forecast and night time temperatures have fallen drastically. Many of the capital's districts are without electricity and water supplies

In response to the Federation appeal, the OPEC Fund for International Development has announced a donation of USD 400,000 (CHF 664,000). In addition, ECHO is donating EUR 400,000 (CHF 588,000) to the emergency operation.

Several National Societies have begun assisting and distributing materials and food and many others have indicated a desire to help. The government has permitted access to all areas for international humanitarian help in urgent cases.

The following assistance has been delivered or is due soon:

A **United Arab Emirates Red Crescent** delegation arrived with 35 tonnes of assistance, comprising food and tents

The **French Red Cross** are preparing to send kitchen utensils, tents, camp beds and warm clothes, based on the needs communicated by the ARCS via the secretariat in Geneva.

The **Swiss Red Cross/government** (arrived today) has sent 40 metric tonnes of assistance comprising: 3,500 sets of kitchen utensils, 500 plastic sheets and 50 rolls of plastic sheets and 4,000 blankets The Swiss Red Cross has also donated CHF 200,000 and the Swiss government CHF 100,000.

The **German Red Cross** (arrived today) has sent 12,000 blankets.

The **Iranian Red Crescent** (arrived today) has sent: 200 family tents, 3,000 blankets, 3 metric tonnes of cooking oil, 5 metric tonnes of rice. 5 metric tonnes of sugar, 10,000 tins of canned food, 4 metric tonnes of beans and medicines

The **Tunisian Red Crescent** is planning to send 4 metric tonnes of blankets, 2 metric tonnes of food, 2 metric tonnes of tomato paste, 2 metric tonnes of couscous and 1 metric tonne of sugar

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Outstanding needs

There are still several outstanding needs including:

Food:

- 50 tonnes of beans
- 50 tonnes of lentils
- 50 tonnes of rice
- 100 tonnes of flour
- 100 tonnes of couscous

100 tonnes of pasta
50 tonnes of cooking oil
50 tonnes of sugar
protein biscuits for children

Other items:

1,100 family tents
3,750 camp beds
11,000 blankets
10,000 plastic sheets
10,000 jerry cans (15 litres)
10,000 buckets (10 litres)
2,000 sets of kitchen utensils
2,000 gas stoves
warm clothes adults and children
13 medical kits
hygiene kits
10 water bladder tanks (5,000 litres) plus tap stands
13 generators 1.5kva
5 computers and printers
5 landcruisers
one 4WD 10-tonne truck
uniforms for volunteers
pairs of boots for volunteers

External relations

The US ambassador has donated a cheque for USD 25,000 to the relief effort. Ericsson Algeria has provided the FACT mission with six mobile telephones. ECHO today met representatives from the ARCS and FACT mission. Medecins du monde will be providing 2 metric tonnes of assistance. Belgian MSF has also offered assistance.

Conclusion

The Algerian people have shown great solidarity during the emergency for those who have been affected by the disaster. The ARCS headquarters has coordinated food and clothing distribution quickly and effectively to beneficiaries at various relief centre sites. The government and ARCS have coordinated closely to ensure that relief is delivered quickly and any problems are quickly sorted out. Collaboration between ARCS and FACT has been open and fruitful. Future needs remain and have to be addressed considering the number of families that need assistance. This is particularly important as the weather forecast is not good.

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All International Federation Assistance Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first operations update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and the second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support and these programmes are outlined on the Federation website.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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