

# 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**

30 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. 3 Period covered: 20 -30 November*

### *“At a Glance”*

*Appeal coverage: 96.2%*

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

*Outstanding needs: CHF 77,227*

*The Disaster/Situation: The Algerian Red Crescent Society, with the support of the Federation and an impressive response from donors, continues to meet the urgent needs of thousands of Algerians in the wake of the floods and mudslides that affected several areas on 10 November. Provision of essential relief and medicines in several districts is ongoing. Capacity building in needs assessment is ongoing.*

### **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 are still being felt. The Algerian Red Crescent Society (ARCS) was at the forefront of essential relief operations in areas where assistance was most needed.

ARCS set up relief centres at sites sheltering homeless families and distribution of food supplies and materials is occurring at these places.

According to official reports in the local press, the death toll reached 755 in the 17 wilayas (provinces) affected by the disaster. Of those who died, 704 were in the capital Algiers. In the city, 421 people were injured and 160 are still missing. A total of 12 740 families were made homeless countrywide, of which 2,770 have been provided shelter. and another 2,224 have been rehoused.

Other consequences of the disaster include:

- 20,000 homes destroyed or seriously damaged;
- 573 schools closed and under repair;
- 43 health centres damaged and under repair;
- the harbours of Algiers, Tenes, Oran and Mostaganem affected;
- 12,000 telephone lines damaged;

- total damage in Algiers estimated at DA 50 billion (USD 67 million).
- more families in need being 'discovered' daily.

The Algerian government immediately activated a national plan, to establish at all administrative levels crisis cells responsible for disaster management and coordination. The ARCS is represented in the crisis cell as one of the partners in the emergency response.

The government 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.

Several health institutions and dispensaries have been damaged by mudslides and floods. ARCS volunteers report that vulnerable people are receiving good treatment in temporary structures as well as permanent ones.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action w**

The ARCS and the Federation field assessment coordination team (FACT), which was requested by the National Society, has been looking at the rehabilitation and future disaster preparedness needs. The first FACT members arrived on November 13. By November 15, all FACT team members were in Algiers.

The ARCS, with Federation support, is currently establishing a logistics chain. A logistics emergency response unit (ERU) from Denmark is helping the National Society on this. The FACT team, together with ARCS has visited a number of sites outside Algiers namely in the provinces of Tipaza, Oran and Ain Defla. These field assessment visits have confirmed the overall figure of approximately 12,000 families affected in both rural and urban setting, many of whom were already living in poor conditions.

In the aftermath of the disaster, attention was focused on the capital Algiers. However, communication and coordination with other affected provinces through the ARCS network has improved and beneficiaries in other wilayas have been identified.

About 1,500 ARCS volunteers were mobilised in the aftermath of the disaster and have been at the forefront of relief efforts since. Of these, 120 volunteers, trained in first aid, provided some of the most urgent assistance. They have been involved in managing temporary shelters, collecting and distributing food and non-food relief items, managing soup-kitchen, providing health and psycho-social support. Several citizens have also joined to support the efforts.

After the storm and floods, the ARCS launched a national appeal on November 11 and then requested the Federation to help in the launch of an international appeal the day after. On the same day, Federation Representation in Tunisia dispatched its staff member to work with the Algerian Red Crescent and a team. In response to this appeal, the OPEC Fund for International Development donated USD 400,000 (CHF 664,000) and ECHO has given EUR 400,000 (CHF 588,000). Many governments and National Societies also responded with in-kind donations. The Libyan Red Crescent has also made a generous donation, which will be reported on in the next operations update.

The ARCS has been active in several districts, both in capital Algiers and in rural areas. Thousands of people have been assisted. The immediate focus was to provide first aid, food and shelter. ARCS assistance posts remain at the centre of this programme and they are still supplying many essentials, including hot meals, infant milk, water, blankets, clothes, cooking utensils and medicine.

### **Relief**

Given the nature of the communities - poor, crowded and in need - distribution of relief packages is rather complex. Many of the worst hit areas were already makeshift shantytowns. Logistics have at times been difficult. Families that have moved into new apartments have often lost all their possessions. Many such household items are being provided in relief packages.

The ARCS is continuing daily relief distribution efforts throughout 14 affected provinces but the cold weather is making some families more vulnerable.

Between November 18-27, ARCS teams distributed food and non-food relief items (1,928 blankets, 261 food parcels) to 440 families at nine sites in Algiers. Forty metric tonnes (mt) of assistance was dispatched to Ain Defla, 40mt to Tipaza, 20mt to Oran, 20mt to Chlef, 20mt to Boumerdès and 20mt to Tizi Ouzou. This assistance has been provided by both RC/RC and non RC/RC donors and mainly consists of blankets and food items.

The priority to-date remains on delivery of drinking water, food, blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, stoves, and heaters. The ARCS and FACT have jointly developed an assessment methodology with standardised formats, faxed to the RC branches in all affected provinces. Due to the lack of communication means, only three out of 14 assessment forms were faxed back to headquarters. An ARCS/Federation relief team has defined a relief package as a model to be used for future distributions.

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9	Gas Lamp	1
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13	Propane tanks	2
14	Garbage bins - family	1
15	Plastic Garbage bags	60
16	Children/Baby Kit	1 (under 3 yrs of age)

In response, a shipment of relief packages will be sent next week to the province of Oran to cover the needs of 1,100 affected families. In addition a total of 330 tents, 264 fire extinguishers, 1,320,000 water purification tablets will be put at the disposal of RC branches in wilayas for immediate distribution.

**Health**

In Algiers, ARCS health activities have been carried out by two Red Crescent teams, one fixed, one mobile. The teams are composed of a general practitioner, a nurse, a midwife and a psychologist. Between November 17-27, free consultations and treatment were provided to 585 people: 355 women, 80 men and 150 children.

The ARCS has also provided free drugs free to 200 other disaster victims with prescriptions, who have previously consulted other non-RC medical teams.

The most common conditions are bronchitis, common cold, scabies, diarrhoea, colopathia and allergies. The mobile health team continues to visit all communes of the capital affected by the disaster.

A weekly health teams’ reporting system has been developed and followed up. In addition three psychologists, who are RC volunteers, continue to make home visits to affected families.

The Oran branch has also mobilised health workers and RC volunteers for consultation and psycho-social support. However, due to the emergency, the epidemiological statistics have not been processed yet. The need to further expand a psychological support program is underway. Hygiene and weather conditions will likely impact on the health of the affected families especially children, elderly and sick unless further support is being provided. The need to maintain a minimum level of cleanliness and hygiene is critical to ensure control of infectious disease and epidemics.

The international response to the disaster has been impressive. The German, Swiss, French, Belgian and Iranian National Societies have sent a total of 900 tents, 23,100 blankets, 900 pieces of shelter material, 1,250 camp beds, 3,500 cooking sets, and 578,000 water purification tablets. In addition, the Iranian Red Crescent has donated 1.5 tonnes of medical assistance. The Libyan Red Crescent and Netherlands Red Cross have also made donations in-kind. The details will be recorded in the next update.

Despite communications problems, transport hitches and exhaustion among ARCS volunteers, the National Society has maintained its assistance to vulnerable people. The original operation sought to assist 6,000 families but ARCS volunteers are being approached by communities for help from many more.

### **Logistics**

At the central level, the ARCS has two warehouses, one in Algiers and the other in Tipaza branch, 40 km away. In addition, all wilayas, countrywide are disposing of at least 500m<sup>2</sup> of warehousing space. In Oran, for example, the warehousing space is 1,000m<sup>2</sup>. The Federation is currently supporting the ARCS in increasing the capacity of its logistics system and adapting it to a large scale relief operation.

Additionally support for ARCS logistical operations in terms of vehicles, uniforms for volunteers, telecom devices is being considered. Lack of 4-wheel drives is one major concern at RC branch level. The branches need this type of vehicle to transport both volunteers and small quantities of goods to the sites.

The local market was explored for the large scale local purchase of plastic garbage bags, garbage bins, fire extinguishers, propane tanks, heaters, gas stoves, buckets and mattresses. Next week a Federation FACT/emergency response unit (ERU) logistics team will purchase important quantities of the above items, according to the Federation procedures. The purchase will be made thanks to the ECHO, OPEC and National societies' donations.

### **Algerian Authorities/External Partners/Others**

The authorities are relocating families from temporary shelters to solve the urgent need for adequate housing as well as to make schools available for children again. Families whose houses were demolished are gradually being relocated to new apartments. Others whose houses were partly damaged are being relocated to temporary tent cities awaiting repairs on their homes. Those people whose homes did not suffer structural damage are being returned to their apartments.

The relocation of families from shelters - such as primarily schools, sport halls and mosques - is underway in Algiers (1,950), Oran (650), Ain Defla (48) as well as other provinces where there are no firm statistics yet available

### **Coordination**

Few Government organisations and NGOs are present in Algeria. ECHO, SDR, Handicap International, Medecins du Monde, Medecins sans frontières, Secours populaire francais have their representatives on the ground. A low key coordination meeting has been convened by Handicap International.

The attached annex of donations shows hard pledges only.

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*Evgeni Parfenov, Federation Desk Officer, Phone: 41 22 730 4325; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email:parfenov@ifrc.org.*

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*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.*

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Peter Rees-Gildea  
Head a.i.  
Relationship Management Department

Christer Aqvist  
Head  
Middle East North Africa  
Department

Algeria - storms and floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 35/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			30.11.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>2'034'000</b>		<b>96.2%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
CANADIAN - GOVT		74'250	CAD	77'844	25.10.2001	
ECHO (03001)		400'000	EUR	588'400	14.11.2001	PRIMARY EMERGENCY AID OPERATION
FINNISH - RC		33'638	EUR	49'556	22.11.2001	
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OPEC		400'000	USD	664'000	15.11.2001	
PRIVATES		1'194	USD	2'000	20.11.2001	
SWISS - RC				6'562	28.11.2001	PROGRAMME SUPPORT RECOVERY
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'392'756	CHF	68.5%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
EGYPTIAN - RC		100'000	USD	166'800	26.11.2001	100 TENTS, 5'000 BLANKETS, BILATERA
GERMAN - GOVT/RC		214'360	DEM	160'389	19.11.2001	12'000 BLANKETS, TRANSPORT/ DISTRIBUTION
IRANIAN - RC		23'777	USD	38'578	17.11.2001	200 TENTS, 3000 BLANKETS
SWISS - GOVT/RC				181'250	28.11.2001	3'500 KITCHEN SETS, TRANSPORT
SWISS - RC				17'000	28.11.2001	2 DELEGATES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				564'017	CHF	27.7%

<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
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AMERICAN - GOVT (BHR/OFDA)		25'000	USD	41'700	21.11.2001	BILATERAL CONTRIBUTION
IRANIAN - RC		23'777	USD	38'578	17.11.2001	OIL, RICE, SUGAR, CANNED FOOD, PULSES, MEDICINES
TUNISIAN - RC				12'000	21.11.2001	MEDICINE, BLANKETS, CLOTHES, RELIEF FOODS BILATERAL
SAUDI ARABIAN - RC		2'502'351	SR	1'089'428	20.11.2001	59'430 TONS FOODSTUFF, MEDICINE, TENTS
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				1'181'706	CHF	

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AMERICAN - GOVT (BHR/OFDA)		25'000	USD	41'700	21.11.2001	BILATERAL CONTRIBUTION
IRANIAN - RC		23'777	USD	38'578	17.11.2001	OIL, RICE, SUGAR, CANNED FOOD, PULSES, MEDICINES
TUNISIAN - RC				12'000	21.11.2001	MEDICINE, BLANKETS, CLOTHES, RELIEF FOODS BILATERAL
SAUDI ARABIAN - RC		2'502'351	SR	1'089'428	20.11.2001	59'430 TONS FOODSTUFF, MEDICINE, TENTS
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				1'181'706	CHF	