

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

10 January 2002

Appeal No. 35/01

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

Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 100,000

Beneficiaries: 6,000

Operations Update No 4 Period covered: up to 28 December 2001

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 125.6%

Related Appeals: North Africa regional programmes 01.60/2002

Outstanding needs: Covered

The Disaster/Situation: Donor response to the appeal has been excellent from within the Middle East & North Africa well as other regions. The Algerian Red Crescent Society has been a key player in the relief operation, assisting thousands of vulnerable Algerians in the wake of the November disaster that killed hundreds and caused widespread damage.

Operational Developments:

After several months of drought, torrential rain and strong winds of up to 211 kph caused huge mudslides and floods on Saturday 10 November 2001 in the capital Algiers and other regions (wilayas), particularly in 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.

In the early days after the disaster, the emergency response was organised around several key players who worked hand in hand with the ARCS and its local branches. These included the local authorities and local associations, several Ministries (Solidarity, Health, Water), the Civil Protection, and the population.

On 18 December, the Government issued the latest report on losses caused by the tragedy. The number killed has reached 764, of which 713 are from Algiers. A total of 125 people are still missing. Material damage is estimated at more than DA 33 billion (CHF 715 million) throughout the 13 wilayas affected. The wilaya of Algiers was the most affected. The damage there is estimated at DA 16 billion (CHF 346 million). A total of 23,000 houses have been damaged, of which 5,300 will have to be rebuilt. Of the 13 wilayas that suffered flooding, Algiers and Chlef are the most affected.

The authorities have confirmed that the emergency phase is now over. In most wilayas, water supplies as well as gas and electricity networks are back to normal. In terms of relocation, 2,965 families who had been living in temporary shelters have been rehoused. In Algiers, a total of 1,388 families previously living in schools, mosques and other temporarily shelters have been relocated. However, they all need substantial assistance to organize basic commodities such as mattresses, cooking stoves, heaters and the like.

Red Cross Red Crescent action w

The Federation field assessment and coordination team (FACT) and the logistics emergency response unit (ERU) from Denmark - in Algeria from the early days of the operation supporting the ARCS - have now left. A Federation coordinator assisted by a relief/logistics coordinator, finance delegate and a reporting delegate are now continuing this support.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Society w

Since November 10, Red Crescent activities concentrated on the distribution of essential domestic items to people affected by the floods. The ARCS provided the wilayas of Algiers, Tipaza, Ain Defla, Chlef, Relizane, Oran, Boumerdes, Tizi-ouzou and Mascara, with assistance in food and non-food commodities from the beginning. While several regions, specifically Tiaret and Ain Temouchent, had informed the ARCS that they were self-sufficient and could manage with relief goods in stock, local branches from the wilayas of Saida, Tlemcen and Mostaganen called for assistance to replenish their emergency stock as well as to continue assisting the needy. The national society is still present in Algiers with mobile teams.

Since December 7, the ARCS assisted 162 rehoused families (972 people) in four wilayas; Birtouta, Dally Ibrahim, Rouiba and Ain Naadja, with food and non-food commodities. Each family also received five blankets, one kitchen set, one gas heater, one jerry can, and one food parcel.

On 25 and 26 December, a Federation representative accompanied a Red Crescent delegation, composed of a medical team, a relief team and a coordinator, to Chlef. Distributions were conducted in two communes, Bouzghaia and Dahra (Dechria), where respectively 24 and 156 families are still in tents. The Red Crescent volunteers distributed blankets, buckets, kitchen sets, bladder tanks, food parcels, toys and clothing. The medical team distributed medicine to people suffering from cold and bronchitis.

Health w

Objective

To procure and distribute medical supplies, basic drugs and equipment to health institutions

From day one, the ARCS medical team has been active in addressing the needs of the victims in all regions. Recently, they have started visiting the population of Algiers who have been rehoused. The official figure of people who have moved into a new apartment is 1,388 families. The evaluation conducted by the team consisted primarily of making a health assessment of each family member but also identifying the needs in terms of essential items such as water, gas, electricity, heat, mattress, blanket, utensil, clothing, jerry can and water tank.

Even though the health situation is improving, there is an increase in the number of cases of bronchitis, common cold, diarrhoea and sore throat.

In the capital of Algiers, since November 10, ARCS volunteers provided first aid via 10 medical and five first aid mobile teams (600 treatments); psychological support via 4 psychologist teams (800 consultations); consultations (800) and treatment (200) by two medical teams.

In Oran, 294 families (1,764 people) received treatments from ARCS medical personnel..

Water-sanitation w

Objective

To minimise the risk of outbreak of waterborne disease

The Health and Water Ministries are responsible for water and sanitation. They worked closely with the ARCS. In Bab el oued, the most affected region of Algiers, equipment provided by the Belgium government as well as the Belgium Red Cross were made available to the disaster victims. Belgian fire fighters and the OIPC (International Organisation of Civil Protection) were also active in the early days.

In one site in Chlef, where 154 families are in tents, a bladder tank was installed on 25 December. Chlorine tablets were also distributed to several locations. The Ministry of Health has the responsibility to educate the population on how to use the tablets.

Relief distributions

Objective

To provide families affected by the flooding with essential domestic items such as warm clothing, utensils and fuel for cooking and blankets.

On 17 December, on the occasion of “Eid Al Fitr” (celebration following the Ramadhan), ARCS volunteers distributed toys to the children in eight relocation sites of Algiers. As part of the traditional programme, children of hospitals and clinics were visited. A total of 825 children received a toy and clothing.

The distribution of relief items continues to be complex. Volunteers are not only assisting the sites where families are still living in tents, mosques, schools, sport centres, and other temporary shelters but also those who have moved into new apartments. ARCS volunteers provided assistance to the population of Algiers in three temporary sites as well as four relocation sites. In the temporary sites, based on individual needs, the assistance consisted in hot meals, milk for infant, food parcels, mineral water, blankets, clothing, utensils, jerry cans and hygiene products. In the relocation sites, families received gas stoves, food parcels, kitchen utensils, jerry cans, blankets, clothing's and hygiene products.

The volunteers served meals at three Red Crescent sites.

Wilayas	Communes	Sites	Number of meals
Algiers	Bab el oued	SNTA	16,600 meals
Algiers	Algiers	Hammamet	13,300 meals
Algiers	Algiers	Oued Koreiche	9,000 meals

Logistics w

Goods received from Participating National Societies (PNS) have been stored and managed by the ARCS in their three warehouses in Tipaza, Djafer and Oran for distribution to beneficiaries. During the reporting period, goods reached Algeria from several national societies: the Netherlands Red Cross, the Belgian Red Cross, the French Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Hong Kong Red Cross.

Goods received in response of the Federation’s appeal no. 35/01

Commodity	Quantity	Donor
Vehicle	1	Spanish Red Cross
Plastic sheeting	2500 pce	Spanish Red Cross
Kitchen sets	1300 pce	Netherlands Red Cross
Water tank	1	Netherlands Red Cross
Jerry cans	4,800	Netherlands Red Cross
Bladder tanks	10	Netherlands Red Cross
Tap stands	10	Netherlands Red Cross
Bundles (8m per hose)	20	Netherlands Red Cross
Chlorine	600,000 units	Netherlands Red Cross
Plastic covers	12,000 pce	Netherlands Red Cross

Plastic buckets	12,000 pce	Netherlands Red Cross
Basic health kits	13 boxes	Netherlands Red Cross
Kitchen sets	700 pieces	Netherlands Red Cross
Blankets	12,100 pce	German Red Cross
Kitchen sets	3500 pce	Swiss Red Cross
Plastic sheeting	500 pce	Swiss Red Cross
Plastic rolls	50 rolls	Swiss Red Cross
Blankets	4000 pce	Swiss Red Cross
Toyota Hilux	1	French Red Cross
Chlorine	578,000 pce	French Red Cross
Hygiene parcels	6,000 kits	French Red Cross
Generators	nine PCs	French Red Cross
Plastic sheeting	350 rolls	French Red Cross
Tents	500 pce	French Red Cross
Relief tents	200 pce	Iranian Red Cross
Blankets	3000 pce	Iranian Red Cross
Camp bed	1,250 pce	British Red Cross
Tents	200 pce	Belgium Red Cross
Generator	three	Belgium Red Cross
Camp beds	625 pce	Belgium Red Cross
Toyota 4x4	1	Danish Red Cross
Clothing	140 boxes	Hong Kong Red Cross
Tents	200 pce	Egypt Red Crescent
Blankets	5000 pce	Egypt Red Crescent

A number of Arabic Red Crescent Societies, specifically Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Libya, have contributed substantial and generous relief supplies to the operation. Some of these are still being documented with pledge management notes (PMN) and tracking numbers. Some others were items not included in the Appeal. Identification and recording of these donations is still being processed in Algeria and confirmed details will be reflected in future updates

Shelter w

Objective

To provide shelter materials for revised number of homeless families

Based on the evaluation, the authorities have completed the first phase for the relocation of disaster victims. In places where housing is not yet completed, the flood victims are still living either in tents, with family members or in other temporary shelters. The families who have had their houses partly destroyed will receive compensation from the authorities for the repairs. In the two worst affected wilayas of Algeria, the capital city of Algiers and Chlef, respectively 1,388 families and 341 families have been rehoused. In the wilaya of Chlef, 677 are still living in tents, 10 have been accommodated in youth infrastructures and finally 624 are living with family members. In the wilaya of Oran, out of 2,181 families, a total of 184 families have been rehoused.

The ARCS concentrates its efforts in assisting the population still accommodated in tents in addition to the ongoing assessment in the relocation sites of Algiers.

Telecommunications w

The Federation representation in Algiers is equipped with three portable computers and seven mobiles on loan from Ericsson with the option to purchase later if required. Four of those mobiles are being used by the Red Crescent Society.

National Society Capacity Building

The ARCS has requested additional telecommunication equipment (phones, a laptop and one digital camera) in order to be more efficient in responding to the present crisis and future operations.

For further details please contact: Evgeni Parfenov, Phone : 41 22 ;7304325 Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; e-mail: parfenov@ifrc.org

All International Federation 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.

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's web site.

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

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Algeria - storms and floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 35/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			09.01.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'034'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 125.6%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AUSTRALIAN - RC		47'500	AUD	40'874	18.12.2001	
CANADIAN - GOVT		74'250	CAD	77'844	25.10.2001	
DANISH - RC				4'542	27.11.2001	
ECHO (03001)		400'000	EUR	588'400	14.11.2001	PRIMARY EMERGENCY AID OPERATION
FINNISH - RC		33'638	EUR	49'556	22.11.2001	
ICELANDIC - RC		200'000	ISD	3'125	12.11.2001	
IRANIAN - RC		2'708	USD	4'394	17.11.2001	PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT & CONTROL
JAPANESE - RC				67'000	18.12.2001	
KUWAIT - RC		10'000	USD	16'680	27.11.2001	
MONACO - RC		25'030	EUR	36'794	16.11.2001	
OPEC		400'000	USD	664'000	15.11.2001	
PRIVATES		1'194	USD	2'000	20.11.2001	
PRIVATES				1'354	03.12.2001	
SOUTH AFRICAN - GOVT		500'000	ZAR	86'300	03.12.2001	
SWEDISH - RC		1'000'000	SEK	156'500	19.12.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, CAPACITY BUILDING
SWISS - RC				6'562	28.11.2001	PROGRAMME SUPPORT RECOVERY
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'805'925	CHF	88.8%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANISH - RC				183'885	27.11.2001	VEHICLE, EQUIPMENT, RUNNING COSTS, AIR TICKETS, DELEGATE
EGYPTIAN - RC		100'000	USD	166'800	26.11.2001	100 TENTS, 5'000 BLANKETS, BILATERAL
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				747'902	CHF	36.8%