

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

4 March 2002

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

Appeal No. 35/01

Launched on 12 November 2001 for CHF 2,034,000 (USD 1.19 million/ EUR 1.38 million) for three months.

Operation extended through 12 March 2002 to meet additional needs.

DREF Allocated: CHF 100,000

Beneficiaries: 6,000 families

Operations Update No. 5 Period covered: 29 December 2001 until 12 February 2002 (last Ops Update issued: 10 January 2002); Final report expected in April 2002

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 133.8%

Related Appeals: North Africa regional programmes (01.60/2002); Middle East North Africa regional programmes (01.54/2002)

Outstanding needs: Covered

The Disaster/Situation: The Algerian Red Crescent Society, with Federation support, received excellent support from donors in their assistance of those affected by the devastating mudslides and floods of November 2001. Relief was effectively given and lessons for future crisis preparedness and response have been learned.

Operational Developments:

Summary

The torrential rain and strong winds that caused mudslides and floods on Saturday 10 November 2001 in the capital of Algiers and in 13 other regions took the population, including the Algerian Red Crescent Society (ARCS), by surprise. Lack of preparedness worsened the situation; the National Society had never experienced a disaster of such magnitude where more than one region was affected.

On 12 November 2001, a request for international assistance (Federation appeal 35/01) was issued on behalf of the ARCS by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies seeking CHF 2,034,000 in cash, kind and services to assist 6,000 families in Algiers and 13 other coastal regions (wilayate) of Algeria. The ARCS flood relief operations commenced almost immediately.

Since the launch of the preliminary appeal on 12 November 2001, the general situation has slightly improved. Nevertheless, there are still areas that need to be addressed.

The flooding caused severe damage to the capital of Algiers where over 90 houses were destroyed in addition to 325 apartments and commercial premises that were damaged. In Algiers alone, an additional 10,000 families - already suffering because of the ongoing conflict in Algeria over the last 10 years and the dire economic situation - have been made more vulnerable by the catastrophe. In recent years, a large number of families had escaped the regions to take refuge in Algiers .

The priority for the ARCS is to complete the assistance to victims of the flooding and, at the same time, continue to strengthen its regional disaster preparedness structures in readiness for future crises. This will be done via the training of staff and volunteers and the upgrading of emergency stocks.

Operational Developments:

The Response so far

Red Cross Red Crescent Action

The whole Movement - including the Federation, the ICRC and tens of National Societies worldwide - quickly supported the ARCS to assist the victims. Over 1,500 ARCS volunteers were mobilised and have been in the forefront of relief effort since. Of these, 120 volunteers, trained in first aid, provided some of the most urgent assistance. Since the beginning of the operation, the ARCS has assisted a total of 6,453 families throughout the 14 regions (wilayat). The assistance was given as follows:

Wilayat	Number of families
Oran	1,350
Chlef	1,018
Algiers	820
Tipaza	630
Ain Defla	580
Saida	480
Mostaganem	271
Relizane	263
Ain Temouchent	220
Tizi Ouzou	220
Tlemcen	210
Tiaret	140
Boumerdes	128
Mascara	123
Total	6,453

Health w

Objective

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

To prevent any overlapping, the ARCS worked in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Civil Protection. While the Ministry of Health provided prescriptions and made consultations, the ARCS medical team has distributed medicine and coordinated services. The ARCS medical teams were composed of a general practitioner, a nurse, a midwife and a psychologist. In addition, drugs and medical supplies were provided to the Health Ministry and Civil Protection as well as to several health institutions based on their needs. In each of the 14 regions affected, tents were used for the consultations as well as distributions of medicine. In Algiers four were used by the medical team while six were used in Oran. A total of three medical tents were set up in each of the 12 other regions.

Thirteen basic health kits from the Netherlands Red Cross were forwarded to all affected regions with the exception of Ain Temouchent, which informed the ARCS that they were self sufficient. Those kits were well appreciated. In future, training on the use of basic health kits would help improve their utilisation.

In addition to the above, the ARCS psychologists provided support to the victims. From November 12, a team of two psychologists visited families in the temporary and relocation sites.

Temporary sites in Algiers

Sites	No. of families	No. of persons seen	Adults	Infants
Maut-Blaisant (school)	56	15	5	10
Telemly (nursery)	13	9	2	7
Belouizdad (market)	36	8	2	6
Rouisseau	25	7	6	1
Rouzareah (school)	85	8	2	6
El Biar		8	2	6
Total	215	55	19	36

The symptoms identified among infants included the refusal to go to school, aggressiveness, turbulence, insomnia, isolation and a lack of appetite. Among adults, anxiety, insomnia and nightmares were recorded.

Later, the psychologist team visited fewer families as the situation gradually improved.

Water-sanitation w

Objective

To minimise the risk of waterborne disease

The Health and Water Ministries were 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 Belgian government as well as the Belgian Red Cross were made available to the disaster victims. Water and sanitation material donated by the Netherlands Red Cross was also distributed on some temporary sites.

Relief distributions w

Objective

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

From day one, the ARCS volunteers have been active in addressing the needs of the victims throughout the territory. During the first weeks, in Algiers, the three main actors (ARCS, Solidarity Ministry and Civil Protection) assisted the victims from 12 temporary sites. A week later the number of sites was reduced to 10. Relief items as well as medical assistance were provided based on individual needs. The assistance consisted of hot meals, milk for infants, food parcels, mineral water, blankets, clothing, utensils, Jerry cans and hygiene products. At three temporary sites, the ARCS volunteers provided meals to 38,900 victims of the flooding. From the beginning, the ARCS provided the wilayat of Algiers, Tipaza, Ain Defla, Chlef, Relizane, Oran, Boumerdes, Tizi Ouzou and Mascara, with assistance in food and non-food commodities. Several regions, specifically Tiaret and Ain Temouchent, informed the ARCS that they were self-sufficient and could manage with relief goods in stock. However, local branches from the wilayat of Saida, Tlemcen and Mostaganem called for assistance to replenish their emergency stock as well as to continue assisting the needy.

Assistance distributed from 12 November 2001 to 13 February 2002

	Algiers	Tipaza	Ain Defla	Chlef	Relizane	Oran	Boumerdes	Tizi Ouzou	Mascara	Mostaganem	Tlemcen	Saida	Tiaret	Ain Temouchent	Total
Kitchen Sets (NRC)	146	660		100				50							956
Basic health kits (NRC)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		13
Blankets (GRC)	3'300			2'000	1'300	1'500	700	1'500	1'000	300	500				12'100
Hygiene Kits (CRF)	380	660			200										1'240
Plastic Sheeting (Swiss RC)				10											10
Buckets (NRC)		50		400	100			50			100				700
Covers (NRC)		50		400	100			50			100				700
Generator (CRF)		1		2											3
Bladder Tank (NRC)		1													1
Water pump (NRC)		1		2											3
Hose (NRC)		2		4											6
Chlore (NRC)		24		24											48
Tents ()		50													50
Clothing (HKRC)		5		15											30
# families assisted	820	630	580	1'018	263	1'350	128	220	123	271	210	480	140	220	6'453

Note: The compiling of the distribution figures is not complete. The Delegation is working on an inventory of the two warehouses with the ARCS.

Shelter w

Objective

To provide shelter materials for revised number of homeless families

Initially, the ARCS wish was to put up tented camps similar to those erected in Chlef during the 1989 earthquake. The authorities, in accordance with the ORSEC plan, decided otherwise. For a better control and to prevent any abuses, the Civil Protection was responsible to provide tents to the families victims of the flooding. These were later exchanged for an apartment. In Algiers, temporary shelters such as mosques, schools and sport halls were prioritised over the tents while in the regions, due to the limited space available, several tent camps were put up. In the early days, the ARCS distributed their emergency stock to the regions. A large quantity of the tents received in response of the Federation’s appeal were handed-over to the regions (wilayat) to respond to the emergency flooding needs.

Assistance to the rehoused families

Two medical teams composed of a general practitioner, a nurse, a midwife and a psychologist started visiting the rehoused families, based on the lists provided by the communes, early December 2001. They were active in addressing the needs of the victims in all regions. The evaluation conducted consisted primarily of 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. As of today, the authorities have

rehoused a total of 1,535 families. Outside the capital, there are still people living in temporary shelters, tent camps as well as with family members. The rehousing process should be complete before the summer.

Ongoing assessments and distributions to rehoused families continue. The ARCS medical team responds to the needs based on the list provided by the authorities.

Government Action .

The “Plan ORSEC”, which sets the conditions as well as the organisation and the implementation of the modalities related to disaster response, came into force on 11 November 2001.

Other Agencies and Associations Action

WFP: global coordinator for the purchase of food. Ongoing distributions in the 14 regions affected by the tragedy.

UNICEF: infant blankets and kitchen utensils. Clothing and shoes to come.

Caritas: four sanitation containers.

Terre des hommes: supported two temporary sites of Bab-El-Oued until the ARCS took over

Islamic associations: a number from all over the world forwarded relief boxes for victims.

Belgian fire fighters and the OIPC (International Organisation of Civil Protection): were also active in the early days. The local authorities undertook a major rehabilitation of the water pipeline system

Coordination between all the actors

After the first 48 hours where a lack of coordination was mainly due to the difficulties to reach the disaster zone, the emergency response was quickly organised around several key players who worked hand in hand with the ARCS and its local branches. The three main actors, the ARCS with the support of the International Movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Civil Protection and the Solidarity Ministry, shared responsibilities throughout the emergency.

Outstanding needs

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

On 16 January, more than two months after the flooding, the ARCS undertook an evaluation on the operation. The National Society made recommendations aimed at not only responding in a more efficient way but also at strengthening its local branches and central committee through the training of staff and volunteers and upgrading of emergency stocks in the regions.

Relief w

Objective

To distribute essential food and non food commodities to the 6,453 families (38,718 people) based on individual needs, by 12 March 2002.

The needs that have not been satisfied during the emergency period will be addressed.

Health w

Objective

To continue assisting the rehoused families in Algiers and 14 other affected regions

Based on the list provided by the communes, the ARCS medical team will continue to assist the remaining families who have been rehoused. Medical needs, as well as needs in terms of food and non food commodities, are being assessed.

Telecommunications w

Objective

To reinforce the telecommunication system of the main local Red Cross branches

- Rehabilitate existing material

- Equip local branches and central committee with HF / VHF, fax, Pactor system

At the request of the ARCS, the authorisation for the use of telecommunications should be restored automatically by the Ministry of Telecommunications (PTT).

Federation Delegation w

A Federation coordinator will remain in Algiers until the end of March 2002 to finalise the operation in close co-ordination with the ARCS.

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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			04.03.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'034'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 133.8%
ANDORRAN - RC		292	EUR	4'395	25.02.2002	
AUSTRALIAN - RC		47'500	AUD	40'874	18.12.2001	
BELGIUM - RC		151'040	BEF	5'522	14.11.2001	PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT & CONTROL
CANADIAN - GOVT		74'250	CAD	77'844	25.10.2001	
CANADIAN - RC		25'000	CAD	26'350	27.12.2001	
DANISH - RC				4'542	27.11.2001	
FINNISH - RC		33'638	EUR	49'556	22.11.2001	
FRENCH - RC		13'558	EUR	19'995	03.01.2002	PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT & CONTROL
GERMAN - RC				3'380	19.11.2001	PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT & CONTROL
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	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT/RC		22'224	EUR	32'941	27.02.2002	DISTRIBUTION COSTS & PSC
OPEC		400'000	USD	664'000	15.11.2001	
PRIVATE DONORS		1'194	USD	2'000	20.11.2001	
PRIVATE DONORS				3'885	03.12.2001	
PRIVATE DONORS				1'045	03.01.2002	
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				1'313'684	CHF	64.6%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
BELGIUM - GOVT		3'020'803	BEF	110'441	14.11.2001	4 GENERATORS, 1250 CAMP BEDS, 350 TENTS
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
FRENCH - RC		284'894	EUR	420'161	03.01.2002	500 FAMILY TENTS, 350 PLASTIC SHEETS, 578'00 CHLORAMINE PILLS, TOYOTA, 6'000 HYGIENIC KITS, 9 GENERATORS, 2'000 DOSSARDS, TRANSPORTATION. DELEGATE 3 MONTHS
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
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		87'580	EUR	129'811	27.02.2002	13 BASIC HEALTH KITS, 10 BLADDER TANKS, 2000 KITCHEN SETS
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				1'408'315	CHF	69.2%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				1'181'706	CHF	