

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: EARTHQUAKE

30 May 2003

Appeal No. 14/03; Operations Update no. 02; Period covered: 25 to 28 May 2003.

Appeal launched on 22 May 2003 for CHF 1,958,000 (USD 1,512,000 or EUR 1,293,000) in cash kind or services to assist 10,000-20,000 beneficiaries for three months.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 200,000.

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: this appeal is covered, and a revision is in process; for details please refer to the attached Contributions List, also available on the Federation's website; please note that pledges are still being inserted into the Federation's system and will be reflected in the next Ops Update no. 3.

Outstanding needs: in view of the donor response to date this appeal is covered; a revised appeal and budget reflecting the latest needs (based on ongoing assessments) will be issued next week on completion of the Algerian Red Crescent/FACT post-emergency assessment and Plan of Action.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [2003 North Africa Region Annual Appeal \(01.92/2003\)](#)

Operational Summary: With the Search & Rescue stage over the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) supported by the Federation Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) and PNS Emergency Response Units (ERUs) have moved into the critical process of planning for prolonged shelter support to the many thousands of homeless in the earthquake zones. Several major after-shocks (over 5.2 on the Richter Scale) have added to the casualties and damage but more significantly increased the fear, tension and psychological strain on the population and indeed the relief workers.



The ARC is now the primary operational humanitarian agency, and with the added presence of the French and Spanish Red Cross Water, Logistics and Basic Health Care ERUs and the FACT, are effectively providing ongoing relief support to the affected population.

Operational developments:

The earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter Scale that struck an extensive area in northern Algeria at approximately 20:00 hours on Wednesday, May 21 2003 was the biggest earthquake to hit North Africa since 1980. Its epicentre was located in the triangle formed by the urban centres Thenia, Boumerdes and Zemmouri. The impact and death toll was aggravated by the fact that a majority of people were at home watching a televised football match and the 8 o'clock news at the time. Latest government figures estimate the number of deceased and injured at more than 2,217 and 9,085 respectively. Up to 20,000 families are currently estimated to be in need of

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temporary shelter but given that the earthquake caused major damage to housing infrastructure, on going aftershocks have inflicted further damage. Houses collapsed completely and others were left standing but unsafe to live in, so the number of homeless continues to rise. Tensions can be felt among the population, many of whom claim that Government help was too late in reaching them, or inadequate. The plight of thousands of earthquake victims has initiated a wave of solidarity among the local population and the international community. The response from the local population and industry is overwhelming including donations in kind, food (in particular), and the offer of active help. Aftershocks of a magnitude of up to 4.2 on the Richter scale still present a daily threat. Based on recent information, the current situation is:

- **Water:** while the water purification plant for the region was unaffected, supply lines suffered severe damage. Lacking accurate knowledge of where pipes had actually been broken, the authorities decided to shut down the whole water distribution system for fear of uncontrolled flooding, interrupting normal water supply mechanisms. Five days after the earthquake, the situation is aggravated by intense heat.
- **Electricity:** electric power is functioning but still vulnerable to disruption.
- **Airport:** incoming cargo flights from all over the world are speedily processed and have caused no congestion at Algiers airport.
- **Government coordination:** overall coordination is in the hands of the Protection Civile with the UNDAC team contributing to aspects of international assistance. The ARC and Federation participate in these meetings.
- **Health:** the threat to overall hygiene and sanitation in the affected area is compounded by the fact that many of the sites chosen for the erection of temporary shelter lack adequate sanitary facilities.
- **Communications:** overall communications have improved considerably with regular contact by satellite phone and landline between the ARC/FACT and ERU teams
- **Transport:** major access roads are intact, but there is congestion due to the transport of relief supplies.
- **Shelter:** the distribution of tents, seen as a commitment on the part of the authorities to provide beneficiaries with permanent homes, is a politically sensitive issue in a country facing housing shortages even before the earthquake made thousands homeless and this shortly before an election.
- **Security:** aside from increased tension, due in part to the noted effects of recurring tremor, there have otherwise been no major security incidents.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Objective: Effective Disaster Management & Relief Coordination:

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The Algerian Red Crescent:

Moving into the next phase of the emergency, humanitarian efforts are now concentrating on meeting the most immediate needs of those who were left homeless by the disaster. In addition to three tented shelters sites in the capital itself, Algerian authorities are currently setting up temporary shelter in 11 locations across the region for an initial period of up to three months. The sites include Bordj Menaïel, Thenia, Boudouaou, Dellys, Sidi Daoud, Isser, Khemis Khechna, Zemmouri, Boumerdes, Corso and Cap Djenat. Each camp consists of an average of 50 to 100 family tents. Schools and stadiums are chosen as priority locations because they at least offer a minimum of sanitary facilities on site. "Cellules de proximité" are established in each camp to facilitate the support to the affected populations. These consist of the Protection Civile, the Ministry of Solidarity, the police, health, administration and the Red Crescent. The Algerian Red Crescent have by now set up operation centres in Algiers, Rouiba, Bordj Menaïel, Boumerdes and Thenia. In each location, trained chefs d'opération have been appointed to manage autonomous operations using volunteers mobilised from all over the country to reach out to affected communities even in the furthest locations of a vast rural district. Presidents of the respective local ARC branches are responsible for liaising with the National Operations Director Dr. Barudi and the National Operations Coordinator Dr. Khoudmi at headquarters. The ARC are cooperating with the Protection Civile in providing for the needs of the affected population as laid out in the Plan Organisation Secours. Regular meetings are held within the Cellules de Crise set up at the national level by Algerian authorities. Government decentralisation efforts intend to replicate these structures at the local level.

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The Federation: The Federation continues to support the ARC in the field through the FACT/and the PNS ERU. As of Thursday, May 22nd 2003, the following exists:

Red Cross Delegates In

Country:

Judith Bourgeois (FRC)
Peter Stamfle (Swiss RC)
Stefan Bihl (GRC)
Michael Hütte (GRC)
Spanish RC: 11 Delegates
French RC: 11 Delegates

FACT members in country:

Yassine Gaba (FRC)
Elena Isabel Gonzalez Romero (SpRC)
Kirsten Nordahl (GRC)
Rana Sidani (Fed.Amman)
Peter Pearce (Team Leader BRC)
Michel Paris (Fed.Tunis)
Chris Black (Fed.)

Regional Delegation Amman/Tunis Office: The Federation Regional resources are available and identification of possible additional staffing from the RD or RDRT to provide Psychological support (PSP) and camp relief skills is underway. The Tunis Representative will visit the ARC to discuss ongoing and future support and planning. The Plan of Action will address the capacity building opportunities that may benefit from this operation and the Regional Offices will be pivotal in linking the work done through the regional DM programmes defined in the [North Africa Appeal \(AP01.92/2003\)](#) long-term humanitarian assistance provided by the Federation. Donors are encouraged to support this core area, reinforcing the capacity of national societies to better respond to the needs of population affected by disasters such as this earthquake.

DMC/MENA: The DMC Head of Operation has established a Task Force to interface with the ARC/FACT representatives in the region. The MENA Desk Officer is on the Task Force and is coordinating financial and funding issues. The logistics department continues to mobilize and coordinate the resources and in-kind contributions (see DMIS).

FACT: The team, in addition to working with the ARC, has established contacts with a number of embassies and consular representatives in the country. Ongoing contact is maintained with the UNDAC team at the airport in Algiers in order to coordinate incoming assistance from governments worldwide. (See: UN below)

ERU: See sectoral activities in Relief Objectives. The ERU and other international assistance is well integrated into the Federation as well as the national working plan. No further ERUs are required at this moment

DMIS: The Special Focus page on this operation continues to reflect daily operational and information data.

Logistics & Resource Mobilization: All resource and logistics enquiries should be addressed to isabelle.sechaud@ifrc.org.) The Logistics Mobilisation Table (LMT) is provided to all interested PNS logistics departments and is posted on DMIS.

Health: Psychological Support Materials in Arabic have been sent from the Federation Turkey Operation. A PSP specialist, fluent in French and Arabic from the Amman Regional Delegate is available to provide additional support.

Security: There was some difficulty in communicating with every team member during the second tremor but as the cell phone system improves intra team communications will also improve. There was one "replique" last night at 3h15, but all staff are safe both in the town and in the field. The hotel seems to remain a safe place to stay and the ERU staff living in another hotel (Dar Diaf) will move in to the FACT team hotel according to availability of rooms. Security remains an important priority.

Ericsson: Have provided 10 cellular phones to the Red Cross operation and have a flight arriving today with equipment to support the cellular system through their country office. They have also offered additional support through access to Swedish aid flights to the region.

Participating National Societies (PNS) (All PNS donations will appear on the Operations Updates as they are confirmed by documentation.): The French Red Cross have launched a domestic appeal for hygiene parcels and

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are planning a bilateral programme to support the ARC in local purchases of fresh food for distribution to the affected. The ARC is negotiating with WFP for the supply of food to those living in temporary shelters. WFP has agreed to provide basic food rations for 14,000 people for a period of one month. The President of the French Red Cross will visit the Red Cross and Red Crescent operation in Algiers. Ongoing offers to fly in supplies have been put on hold pending further confirmation from the field on needs.

Constraints

The disruptions and tension from aftershocks are a cause for concern. A considerable amount of work needs to be done to confirm and evaluate the real longer-term challenges. Possibly additional warehouse space may be relieved by request for Rub Halls in LMT.

Objective: Effective, appropriate delivery of relief services and shelter.

With the end of the S&R phase the ARC and the Federation have started to move into the critical issue of the humanitarian assistance to the thousands of homeless needing assistance. The FACT team is working on the Plan of Action, including a revised appeal and budget.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The overall objective of the operation is to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable survivors of the earthquake by delivering immediate assistance. To achieve this, emergency relief assistance will be provided to a target population of **5,000 families (25,000-35,000 people)** who lost their homes and are living (or will be) in temporary tented camps. The following types of assistance will be provided for an initial period of three months:

- provide the affected population with temporary shelter and basic relief items: tarpaulins, tents, blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, baby kits, jerry cans.
- provide beneficiaries with sufficient quantities of clean water.
- ensure beneficiaries living in tented camps have access to basic health care facilities and provide psychological support to the traumatised.
- participate in communal food support. This is already taking place for the initial phase. The intention however is to quickly provide affected families with the means to cook their own meals by distributing stoves, kitchen sets and government provided food.

Activities:

- **National Society:**
The ARC operation centres are up and running. The ARC have devised a sensitisation campaign to convince people to move to temporary shelter sites rather than camping next to their destroyed homes.
- **WatSan:**
The ARC established a direct contact to the Regional Hydraulic Director. An operational base for the FRC WatSan ERU has been established at one out of two hydraulic plants in Boumerdes. Water distribution systems have been devised: hydraulic plant water will be transported by truck to 11 selected sites where water will be stored in bladder tanks cum distribution taps. After addressing the immediate requirements the ERU will assist the hydraulic plant with pumping. As soon as all distribution sites are in operation, further assessments will be made to evaluate need for a second ERU distribution module. The French Watsan ERU's established in Boumerdes, will closely be involved with the ARCS and the authorities in the plan developed for the management of the 11 camps. Early concerns around the poor sanitation conditions have been discussed with the Watsan ERU Team Leader who indicates the problem is being addressed by the military and for the moment no additional sanitation personnel for the ERU are needed.
- **Basic Health Care:**
The Spanish ERU was dispatched to the warehouse water purification centre of Boumerdes. A school site has now been identified at Reghaia, halfway between Algiers and Zemmouri, to serve an estimated population of 40,000 with an existing referral hospital located 3 km away. Communications remain difficult but the team hopes to have established an email link today. Full contact is now established with the unit who are treating patients and the team is working closely with the Ministry of Health together with ARCS volunteers from Oran branch. During the second earthquake a nearby wall collapsed and some minor injuries were treated on the spot by the ERU team.



- **Logistics:**

The ARC from day one of the operation provided efficient airport logistics. Upon arrival of the logistics ERU, one delegate was assigned to assist the ARC airport logistics officer, involving the handling of incoming relief goods, storing and dispatching running smoothly and efficiently. The French ERUs set up offices in Algiers at Hotel Dar Diaf and at water purification centre in Boumerdes. Trucks mobilised from private companies are put at the disposal of the ARCS by the Protection Civile for the transportation of relief goods. In addition to two central ARC warehouses in Algiers, a decentralised warehouse is now established on site at water purification station in Boumerdes. First aid supplies have been pre-positioned at school in Ouled Moussa (outskirts of Boumerdes). Red Cross-airlifted supplies including tents and other relief supplies held by the Protection Civile have now been released to the ARC and the Federation. The ARC is working with the Protection Civile on logistic issues such as tracking numbers, distribution mechanisms, and reporting. The ARC President has personally involved himself in addressing the responsibilities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent needs to account and report on relief supplies.

- **Miscellaneous:**

A distribution plan agreed for GRC medical and emergency relief supplies. Medical supplies are to be donated by the ARC to the referral hospital in Bordj Menaïel; relief goods will be distributed at the stadium in Boumerdes. Belgian Red Cross relief items and health kits are stored on site at the school in Ouled Moussa.

Communications, media, and public information:

The ARC has provided additional information on their society web page at <http://www.cra-dz.org/>

Media:

A strong continuation of Red Cross and Red Crescent activities and presence has been maintained through the major international networks. Following the second earthquake many agencies were able to interview Federation personnel in the field. The ARC president presented the societies activities and role to the UN media corps in Geneva.

UN: The OSOC search and rescue coordination centre is located at Boumerdes. Based in Algiers, UNDP are chairing regular meetings to facilitate the coordination and information flow between international aid agencies. UNDAC have carried out a rapid evaluation assessing numbers of affected people in all urban centres in the affected area. Their estimates show that the number of tents currently available in the country are a 5,000 short of the total needed to provide temporary shelter to all affected populations.

Outstanding needs.

With the initial search and rescue phase over, people whose houses have been destroyed or become unsafe to live in as a consequence of the earthquake are in immediate need of short-term relief assistance, including shelter, food and water, emergency relief items like blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, and jerry cans. Specific needs will arise

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as a consequence of regrouping affected populations in temporary tented camps that will have to be equipped with adequate sanitary facilities. The trauma created by the loss of close relatives, homes and belongings is compounded by the fear of aftershocks. In the medium to long-term significant rehabilitation work will have to be carried out to repair infrastructural damages, re-establish the water supply system and provide permanent housing for those made homeless by the earthquake.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

The Federation response will be carried out in a manner governed by the Principles of the Movement, the Principles and Rules of Disaster Response and the Code of Conduct. Wherever possible SPHERE Guidelines will be respected.

National Society Capacity Building

The ARC has had recent training in relief and regional disaster response training (RDRT). The floods last year provided valuable lessons, and the ARC's disaster response capacity has improved. RDRT training in the region has contributed to the ARC being in a position to effectively respond.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Images and additional technical capacity information is now coming directly from the ARC/Federation field operations. These images are embedded in stories from the field and are on both DMIS and the main Federation web site.

For further information please contact:

- *DMC Head of Operations Iain Logan. email iain.logan@ifrc.org phone: +41.22.730.4984 fax: +41.22.733.0395*
- *DMC/Logistics: Isabelle Sechaud e.mail. isabelle.sechaud@ifrc.org*
- *Delegation contact name Tunis Office: Anne Leclerc email ifrcu01@ifrc.org; phone:+216.718.62485*
- *Regional Department: Evgeni Parfenov email, evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org phone,+41.22.730.4325*

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

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

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ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 14/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

30.05.2003

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

CASH

| | | | | | TOTAL COVERAGE | |
|--------------------------------|--|---------|-----|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> | | | | 1'958'235 | 198.5% | |
| CANADIAN - GOVT/RC | | 198'000 | CAD | 187'011 | 22.05.03 | |
| CROATIAN - RC | | 15'000 | EUR | 22'665 | 27.05.03 | |
| HELLENIC - RC | | 10'000 | EUR | 15'110 | 26.05.03 | PURCHASE OF 3000 BLANKETS |
| IRISH - GOVT | | 500'000 | EUR | 755'500 | 26.05.03 | |
| JAPANESE - RC | | 49'900 | USD | 67'839 | 21.05.03 | |
| OPEC | | 500'000 | USD | 679'750 | 23.05.03 | |
| SWISS PRIVATE DONOR | | | | 2'000 | 26.05.03 | |
| AMERADA HESS LTD | | 25'000 | USD | 33'987 | 26.05.03 | |
| WESTERN UNION FOUNDATION | | 50'000 | USD | 67'975 | 28.05.03 | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH | | | | 1'831'837 | CHF | 93.5% |

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|----------|---|
| AMERICAN - RC/BULGARIAN - RC | | | | 28'000 | 28.05.03 | 4000 HYGIENIC PARCELS |
| BELGIUM - RC | | | | 59'450 | 28.05.03 | 100 TENTS, 1000 BLANKETS, 10'0000 WAT.PURIF. TAB., 5 HELATH KITS |
| BRITISH - RC | | | | 209'045 | 28.05.03 | 599 TENTS, 6030 BLANKETS, 2010 PLASTIC SHEET. 603 KITCHEN SETS, 1960 JERRY CANS |
| BRITISH - PRIVATE DONOR | | | | 15'500 | 28.05.03 | 900 BLANKETS, 500 PLASTIC SHEET. |
| DANISH - RC | | | | 168'200 | 28.05.03 | 5000 KITCHEN SETS, 2400 PLASTIC SHEETING. |
| FRENCH - RC | | 255'000 | EUR | 385'305 | 26.05.03 | LOGISTICS & WATSAN ERU FOR 1 MONTH |
| FRENCH - RC | | | | 346'000 | 28.05.03 | 1480 TENTS, 10'000 BLANKETS |
| GERMAN - RC | | | | 17'000 | 28.05.03 | 1000 BLANKETS, 480 KITCHEN SETS |
| HELLENIC - RC | | | | 15'000 | 28.05.03 | 3000 BLANKETS |
| IRANIAN - RC | | | | 70'000 | 28.05.03 | 200 TENTS, 4000 BLANKETS, 400 KITCHEN SETS |
| SLOVENIAN - RC | | | | 1'390 | 28.05.03 | 278 BLANKETS |
| SPANISH - RC | | 348'585 | EUR | 526'711 | 27.05.03 | BASIC HEALTH CARE ERU FOR 1 MONTH |
| SPANISH - RC | | | | 10'102 | 28.05.03 | 586 HYGIENIC PARCELS, 600' WATER PURIFICATION TABLETS |
| SWISS - RC | | | | 142'600 | 28.05.03 | 215 TENTS, 1000 PLASTIC SHEET. , 2000 KITCHEN SETS, 10 GENERATORS |
| TURKISH - RC | | | | 40'000 | 28.05.03 | 200 TENTS |
| YUGOSLAVIAN - RC | | | | 20'000 | 28.05.03 | 3000 BLANKETS, 200 KITCHEN SETS |

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PLEDGES RECEIVED

30.05.2003

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| | | | | | | |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES | | | | 2'054'303 | CHF | 104.9% |

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|--------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| SYRIAN - RC | | | | 45'000 | 28.05.03 | 200 TENTS, 1000 BLANKETS |
| UAE - RC | | | | 35'000 | 28.05.03 | 150 TENTS, 1500 BLANKETS |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED | | | | 80'000 | CHF | |