

MINOR EMERGENCY



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

EGYPT: BOMB BLASTS

ME no. 05ME044
Update no. 1
8 September 2005

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 181 countries.

In Brief

CHF 75,000 (USD 57,677 OR EUR 48,066) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION.

UNREMARKED FUNDS TO REPAY DREF ARE ENCOURAGED.

For information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The situation



On 23 July 2005, a series of bomb attacks hit the Egyptian resort city of Sharm El Sheikh, located on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula. Around 90 people were killed and over 150 were wounded by blasts suspected to have been car bombs, making the attacks the deadliest terrorist action in the country's history. The bombing coincided with Egypt's Revolutionary Day, which commemorates Nasser's 1952 overthrow of King Farouk.

The attacks took place in the early morning hours, at time when many tourists and locals were still out at restaurants, cafés and bars. The first bomb blast, at 01:15 local time, was reported in a market in downtown Sharm; shortly after, another was reported to

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have hit the Ghazala Gardens hotel, a 176-room four star establishment in the Naama Bay area. A car bomber plunged his vehicle into the front of the hotel. The third explosion hit a taxi Rank, in Naama Bay, as a bomb in a suitcase exploded in the taxi rank next to the Ocean Bay Hotel. The blasts were powerful, shaking windows miles away. Fire and smoke could be seen rising from the explosion sites.



The majority of dead and wounded casualties were Egyptians. Also injured or killed were foreign visitors from the Czech Republic, France, Israel, Italy, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Qatar, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Historically, foreign tourists have been a common target of attacks dating back to the early 1990s. The most bloody attack prior to the Sharm el-Sheikh bombing was the November 1997 Luxor Massacre, in which 58 foreign tourists and four Egyptians were perished. In October 2004, a series of bomb attacks killed 34 people in Taba, also on the Sinai Peninsula. In April 2005, Cairo was hit by a two days terrorist violence, in which three foreign tourists were killed.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far

Within two hours of the explosion, the Egyptian Red Crescent (RC) teams were mobilized: 30 youth volunteers, 5 staff members, headed by the Chairman of the Board of the Egyptian RC South Sinai Branch, have participated in the relief activities in close collaboration with the national authorities, removing debris, helping survivors, providing them psychological support, and moving bodies. An emergency task force was established at the Headquarters of the Egyptian RC and at the branch level to regulate relief efforts.

The Secretary General of Egyptian RC flew immediately on 23 July to the site, visited the victims and met with the Governors and various governmental authorities to discuss the plan of action for this emergency and rehabilitation phase. The Egyptian RC was congratulated officially by the Authorities for its quick response and effective participation in relief and rehabilitation.

A joint governmental and Red Crescent Team was organized to assess better the situation of the families and identify the needs for assistance.

The Regional Office for North Africa has immediately offered its assistance to the Egyptian RC and kept regular contact with the Egyptian RC Secretary General and its team as well as with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Head of Delegation based in Cairo. CHF 75,000 was released from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the Federation to support the Egyptian RC in its assistance of the affected families.

The needs and progress on implementation

One of the main difficulties encountered by the Egyptian RC was the lack of transport facilities at the South Sinai Branch Headquarters, which slowed down the mobilization of volunteers. Although Sharm El Sheikh is the largest city in South Sinai, there was no Egyptian RC sub-branch in the city. The South Sinai Headquarters are located in El Tor (100 Km away from Sharm el Sheikh). A sub-branch was immediately created and now needs to be officially established, and equipped with the necessary relief material.

Immediate support was provided to those in need. Priority was given to injured, handicapped or to those who lost their business places (destroyed in the explosion). Cash remittance was distributed (approximately CHF 5,000) within the first days to the more affected people: "the bread winner" as well as some provision of in kind donation (basic food and non food items were distributed the days following the explosion).

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Support is restricted to the poorest families and priority is given to families who lost the family provider. Compensation in the form of cash or in kind, in order to develop income generating activities (e.g. household project, vocational training for sewing for women, computer for youth, provision of hardware, and provision of cattle to families in rural areas, ... etc.), were provided to the affected community. Priority was also given to handicapped persons, which have been injured during the attacks. Cash will be provided to cover the expenses for rehabilitation as well as to recover from the loss of income during the period of handicap.

Surveys are being carried out for families of the dead in order to carefully identify those with low socio-economic state. There are 40 identified Egyptian deaths among workers in Sharm El Sheikh. Because of the tourist season, many of these workers were originated from different regions of Egypt, which has complicated the need assessment and survey. They belong to 19 Governorates all over Egypt. Egyptian RC Branches are now conducting socio-economic surveys for their families. Egyptian RC assistance will give priority to those most in need, especially those who did not receive any financial assistance from other organizations. The Government of Egypt, through the Ministry of Social Affairs and the local governorates, has already offered about USD 1,500 to each family who lost a relative.

The National Society survey is coordinated with other local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as to avoid duplication and mismanagement of the humanitarian aid. So far, preliminary data indicates that 50% of the families affected lost the family provider. The identification of the families who will benefit from a cash support is almost finalized. Egyptian RC Branches are monitoring the reports and organizing the remittance process, and the follow up of the income generating activities are developed to support the affected families

Learning from this experience and taking into consideration the previous bomb attacks in South Sinai (please see the box on the right), the Egyptian RC is planning to reinforce the newly established branch in Sharm El Sheikh (Renovation, office equipment, basic relief supply, and a minibus to transport Egyptian RC volunteers and goods). The Branch will also be active in this highly visited region, and use its new structure to disseminate key Red Cross/Red Crescent messages, to promote the Humanitarian Values and Fundamental Principles as well as to better prepare the local population to respond to risk and vulnerability, and support the vulnerable communities identified in the region in a more effective way.

The Egyptian Red Crescent Board decided to expand training courses for their youth and volunteers in Disaster Management, Community Based First Aid and psychological support (reinforcement of existing Psychological Support Programme Teams) in other Egyptian RC branches, even the one based in a non-disaster prone area, as unfortunately terrorism may strike anywhere. A plan of Action has been developed and support has been requested from the Regional Office to integrate it in the 2006-2007 Disaster Management Planning.

Coordination

The coordination with the local authorities was very effective and the National Society, in the rehabilitation phase, continues to closely work with other local NGOs involved in the operation.

For more information on Egyptian RC activities, please view the new Egyptian Red Crescent Website at www.egyptianrc.org

Terrorist Attacks in Egypt

Sept 18, 1997:

Nine German tourists and their driver killed in shooting and firebomb attack outside Egyptian Museum

Nov 17, 1997

Attackers killed 58 tourists and four Egyptians at an ancient temple near southern town of Luxor

Oct 7, 2004

Bombing at the Taba Hilton's Border with Israel and two beaches further south killed 34 people

April 7, 2005

An attack in a Cairo Bazaar killed an American, two French and the suspected suicide bomber

April 30, 2005

A suicide bomber wounded seven, including two Israelis, an Italian and a Swede, near the Egyptian museum

Budget outline

➤ Immediate support to families in need (Cash, In Kind donations)	CHF 7,000
➤ Cash support for Families who lost Family providers or handicapped people	CHF 12,000
➤ Reinforcement of newly established ERCS Branch in Sharm El She ikh (Office equipment, vehicle, training)	CHF 51,125
➤ Programme Support Recovery	CHF 4,875
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<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>CHF 75,000</u>

Budget implementation is up to 55% with the Cash and in Kind Donation distributed during the first emergency phase to the poorest families and the procurement of a mini-bus for the transport of RC volunteers. Full financial report will be provided with the final Report of this Minor Emergency Appeal. The operation is intended to be completed, as initially planned, in the end of October 2005.

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