

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Humanitarian Crisis in the Middle East

Emergency appeal n° MDR81001
Operations update n° 8
7 January 2008

Period covered by this Ops Update: 1 May to 30 November, 2007

Appeal target (current): CHF 5,037,019 (USD 4,075,135 or EUR 3,190,770)

Appeal coverage: 83%

[<click here to go directly to the interim financial report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 21 July 2006 for CHF 1,329,000 (USD 1,000,000 or EUR 846,000) for three months to assist 50,000 beneficiaries.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 200,000 (USD 159,120 or EUR 127,455) was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national societies to respond to the crisis. Following generous contribution from the donors, the amount was fully paid back to DREF.
- The appeal and budget were revised on 11 August 2006 - budget increased to CHF 5,036,998 (USD 4,075,135 or EUR 3,190,770) - for three months to assist 65,000 beneficiaries.
- With Operations Update no.6, the Appeal was extended to 31 March 2007.
- With Operations Update no.7, the operational period was extended until 31 December 2007.



New standardized ambulance for Lebanese Red Cross Emergency Medical Services

Summary: The emergency phase of the Middle East Humanitarian Crisis operation was completed by September 2006. The host National Societies of Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, and Red Cross on Cyprus have responded quickly to the immediate humanitarian needs of thousands of displaced people and third country nationals on transit. During the following months until the end of 2006, the operation in Syria, Egypt and Cyprus focused on the replenishment of relief stocks which were distributed by the National Societies during the peak of the crisis. In Lebanon, the focus was on the rehabilitation of the National Society's infrastructure, along with capacity building.

The final report for OPEC fund was submitted and the full pledge was paid by November, 2007. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the construction and rehabilitation phase was delayed in Lebanon, partly due to government procedures dealing with land deeds and partly due to the fluid political situation in Lebanon which has affected the processes related to custom clearance. In view of this situation, the operational period of the Appeal was extended to 31 December 2007 to allow for the completion of the planned activities in Lebanon.

Nevertheless, due to contextual constraints in Lebanon, the rehabilitation phase of the operation continued to remain behind schedule throughout 2007. At the time of writing this report, the International Federation is still in possession of a balance of funds related to the Lebanon project with less balances remaining in Syria, Cyprus and Israel projects. In the face of these realities and the complex political situation in Lebanon, with this operations update, the International Federation is extending the operational period of the Emergency Appeal to 31 December 2008 for the Lebanese Red Cross to complete the rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in South Lebanon.

As many activities in Lebanon are being concluded at the end of the year, a more comprehensive operation update focusing on the Lebanon component of this Appeal – including communications and coordination – will be issued in the first quarter of 2008.

The International Federation would like to express its gratitude to the OPEC Fund for International Development, Canadian Government and Canadian Red Cross, American Red Cross, Norwegian Government and Norwegian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, British Red Cross, Australian Red Cross and all the other National Societies who have contributed to this appeal and have allowed significant humanitarian assistance to the people affected from the conflict in Lebanon and its consequences in neighboring countries.

The situation

The military operations of July-August 2006 in Lebanon resulted in the death of 1,187 civilians, left 4,092 injured and approximately one million people displaced. Most of the displaced had fled to other areas of Lebanon, as well as to Syria and other countries.

The emergency situation changed as of 30 September 2006 when all the Lebanese that had crossed to Syria and those internally displaced from south Lebanon who sought refuge in and around Beirut returned to their hometowns and villages. However, the political landscape in Lebanon and the region in general continued to be fluid and complex. The months after the crisis have seen high profile assassinations in Lebanon using car bombs. In addition, the political impasse between the government and the opposition continued unabated. The main contention is over the election of the president of the Republic and the formation of a national unity government.

Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation worked closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which had the overall responsibility for the coordination of the Movement's response to the conflict. With its emergency appeal, as well as coordination with the National Societies in the region, the International Federation helped to provide humanitarian assistance to the people affected from the armed conflict and improve the capacities of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies.

In the meantime, relations were maintained with partners outside the Movement - United Nations (UN) agencies, governments and ministries, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - in order to harmonize relief activities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: Displaced persons/evacuees and host families in countries surrounding Lebanon have access to adequate shelter, food and other appropriate emergency support services.

Progress:**Syria, Egypt, Cyprus**

Food distribution including food parcels, ready meals, snacks and water were distributed to the Lebanese families crossing into Syria and to third country nationals who made their way to Egypt and Cyprus. People stranded while crossing border between Gaza strip and Egypt were also assisted by food rations.

By 30 September 2006, the distribution of food and non-food items was fully completed in all three countries, and by the end of December 2006, the replenishment of the relief stocks of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society (Syrian Arab RCS) was finalized. This section of the operation has been fully completed, accounted for and reported. For more details, please refer to the operations updates 1-7 on the International Federation's official website (www.ifrc.org).

Health and care

Objective 2: The health situation of the targeted beneficiaries is maintained at satisfactory level within the emergency period of three months.

Progress:**Syria**

During the first hours of the crisis, the Syrian Arab RCS mobilized its volunteers and branches to provide first aid, medicines and hygiene kits. The emergency phase was completed when the Lebanese citizens started to return home, thus the focus of the International Federation was to support the National Society in replenishing its stocks used during the emergency phase. This objective has been fully achieved and reported on in the previous updates.

Lebanon

During the second half of the year, ongoing efforts were made to strengthen the psychological support programme of the National Society in order to support volunteers and access affected civilians. A training of trainers (ToT) was undertaken and support was provided to the development of a national plan of action.

Furthermore, a pilot project in community based first aid (CBFA) was initiated in the north of Lebanon. Nevertheless, due to the fact that many of the volunteers identified and trained for the activity were implicated in the response to the internal disturbance in the north of the country during the summer months, the follow-up was limited.

As a key actor in the provision of blood services in Lebanon, the capacity of the National Society to manage its operations was improved through the provision of equipment to the blood bank department, as well as the installation of the blood donor and stock database connecting the headquarters with several blood centres. This was completed with the additional support of computers for the management team at the headquarters.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective 3: The water and sanitation situation of the targeted population in the countries neighbouring Lebanon is maintained at satisfactory level within the emergency period of three months.

Progress:**Syria, Cyprus**

Clean drinking water (mostly bottled) was provided to the beneficiaries. As most of the beneficiaries were accommodated with the Syrian families across the country and some arranged their own private accommodation, few were housed in public places such as schools, youth camps, churches etc. Therefore, the need for expanded water and sanitation provision did not arise.

This objective has been met during the emergency phase, and completed by the return of the Lebanese people and third country nationals to their home.

Shelter

Objective 4: Adequate shelter facilities are maintained for the targeted population for the emergency period of three months.

Progress:

No specific need was identified for shelter during the emergency phase as all beneficiaries were accommodated either with Syrian families, private accommodation or public schools. Therefore no specific activity was planned for this objective and the need ceased to exist after the people returned to their home country.

Capacity Building

Objective 5: National Societies in the region are better prepared to respond to man-made and natural (including epidemics) disasters.

Progress:

Syria

Necessary office equipment and furniture for the new headquarters of the National Society were provided and officially inaugurated on 5 June, 2007. Further consideration was given to the request of the Syrian Arab RCS to establish a radio communication network to connect all 14 branches in order to enhance the disaster response capacity. In addition, tailor made disaster management training was organized at branch level.

Lebanon

The experiences from the crisis of 2006 and the increased donor support for the Lebanese Red Cross allowed the latter to identify key areas for improvement in emergency preparedness and response. The years of under funding of the emergency medical services (ambulance services) came to the forefront during the operation, with the Movement partners responding rapidly to identify a strategy to improve the delivery capacity of the Lebanese Red Cross first aid teams. This was further considered an integral part of the emergency response during the internal disturbance in May/June 2007 in the Nahr el Bared camp in the north of the country.

In addition, focus was placed on logistics, disaster management, communication, planning and financial management development. Activities related to all components were ongoing and completed in the last six months of the year with the following achievements:

- Logistics development: Standardised systems for warehouse management and procurement were implemented by the logistics department. An evaluation was completed on the activities with an achievement level ranging between 85-95%. Additional hardware, including computers, was provided to assist in the effective implementation of the new standards. A plan of action for 2008 was in the process of being completed using standard planning tools.
- Disaster Management: The Lebanese RC was able to complete the first draft of a disaster management plan of action, taking into consideration the need to undertake a capacity analysis of the organisation at headquarters and local level.
- Improved communication systems: An IT network was installed at the headquarters of the National Society, including a new phone system.
- Planning processes: Standard planning tools were introduced to all departments of the National Society to assist in ensuring a coherent and integrated approach to emergency preparedness and response linked to an improved strategic planning process.
- Finance/human resources (HR) management: An assessment was completed to improve finance and HR management, resulting in a plan of action and agreement to implement the financial component within the last quarter of the year.

Moreover, the National Society received several hardware donations to allow for more effective implementation of activities, including the provision of eight vehicles, a generator for the headquarters, equipment for the disaster management coordination room, and the provision of dispensary tents.

As part of the objective to improve the delivery capacity of the Lebanese Red Cross emergency medical teams, and within the scope of the emergency appeal, it was agreed to prioritise support to upgrade the ambulance fleet as well as to support facilities for the emergency teams and other operational departments. The latter resulted in a plan of action to construct an emergency medical service station and an integrated local branch in the southern city of Tyre. As a result of this, the appeal was extended until the end of 2007 and now again until the end of 2008. The achievements to date:

- **Ambulance Fleet:** Six ambulances were purchased and sent for conversion according to the new standards developed by the Lebanese Red Cross in the 5 year Emergency Medical Service Strategy. They were to be handed over in October; however, due to delays in the conversion and the identification of a new logo for the vehicles, the delivery date was postponed until the middle of December.
- **Rehabilitation and Construction:** Two locations were identified as priority by the Lebanese Red Cross in terms of investing in the future of the local capacity to respond to crises.

Kabr Schmoun Emergency Medical Station: The land was purchased by the National Society and a plan of action agreed upon with the technical staff of the International Federation. A pre-design was completed and activities were ongoing for the tendering process for consultants. The project cooperation agreement was signed between the partners.

Tyre – Integrated Branch: The project aims to ensure an infrastructure which will allow the Lebanese Red Cross branch in the southern city of Tyre to integrate all operational departments which currently are forced to rent accommodation at various locations throughout the city. The land has been identified and all the necessary land deeds and building authorisations are obtained. There remains the outstanding issue of the framework for a functional design which was being discussed with the relevant departments of the National Society prior to the project cooperation agreement being signed and the work commencing on tendering processes.

Challenges:

The main challenge in these activities has been the length of time to resolve issues surrounding the rehabilitation and construction process. These are particularly linked to the identification of suitable land and the acquisition of all relevant assurances for building permits and registration certificates. However, as this has now been resolved, the process should increase in momentum allowing the projects to be completed by the end of 2008.

With regard to the other activities, the main challenge was to ensure internal acceptance between departments of the relevancy and benefit of improved service capacity.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Syria

The Syrian Arab RCS newsletter “Solidarity” was published in Arabic and English, with concluding remarks and stories on its response to the crisis in Lebanon. Copies were delivered to all partners, counterparts and stakeholders who assisted in the response to this emergency. The newsletter continued to be published regularly afterwards, disseminating news on the National Society and in general the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

The information campaign launched by the National Society and supported by the International Federation and ICRC formed a good basis for the capacity building in communication and information. This is an on going activity which goes beyond a specific operation.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<Interim financial report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR81001 - Humanitarian Crisis - Middle East

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/7-2007/11
Budget Timeframe	2006/7-2007/12
Appeal	MDR81001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		5,037,019				5,037,019
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions (received)</u>						
American Red Cross		593,750				593,750
Andorra Red Cross		25,732				25,732
Australian Red Cross		76,957				76,957
Australia - Private Donors		1,385				1,385
Belarusian Red Cross		6,165				6,165
British Red Cross		144,723				144,723
Canada - Private Donors		2,169				2,169
Canadian Government via Red Cross		1,109,387				1,109,387
Danish Red Cross		12,598				12,598
Finnish Red Cross		200				200
Germany - Private Donors		785				785
Irish Red Cross		37,181				37,181
Japanese Red Cross		159,950				159,950
Luxembourg - Private Donors		198				198
New York Office		30,705				30,705
Norwegian Red Cross		339,067				339,067
On Line donations		77,455				77,455
OPEC Fund For International Developm		1,390,800				1,390,800
Saudi Arabia - Private Donors		836				836
Switzerland - Private Donors		300				300
Ukrainian Red Cross		3,400				3,400
United States - Private Donors		88,380				88,380
C1. Cash contributions		4,102,122				4,102,122
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
Australian Red Cross		578				578
Norwegian Red Cross		29,682				29,682
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		30,260				30,260
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
American Red Cross		0				0
Danish Red Cross		0				0
Norwegian Red Cross		3				3
Unidentified donor		-3				-3
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or		-0				-0
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
British Red Cross		38,533				38,533
Finnish Red Cross		2,934				2,934
C5. Inkind Personnel		41,467				41,467
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		4,173,849				4,173,849
D. Total Funding = B +C		4,173,849				4,173,849

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II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		4,173,849				4,173,849
E. Expenditure		-3,272,900				-3,272,900
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		900,949				900,949

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		5,037,019					5,037,019	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	69,204		55,089			55,089	14,115	
Construction Materials	294,581						294,581	
Clothing & textiles	330,076		189,738			189,738	140,338	
Food	661,250		251,734			251,734	409,516	
Water & Sanitation	110,212		85,705			85,705	24,506	
Medical & First Aid	63,607		307,794			307,794	-244,186	
Teaching Materials	1,269		6,206			6,206	-4,937	
Utensils & Tools	38,720		39,143			39,143	-423	
Other Supplies & Services	284,621		164,414			164,414	120,207	
Total Supplies	1,853,540		1,099,823			1,099,823	753,717	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	21,528						21,528	
Vehicles	1,129,071		687,190			687,190	441,881	
Computers & Telecom	94,933		68,336			68,336	26,596	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	130,054		136,839			136,839	-6,785	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	1,375,586		892,366			892,366	483,220	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	96,123		97,253			97,253	-1,130	
Distribution & Monitoring	16,000		23,246			23,246	-7,246	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	72,916		56,382			56,382	16,533	
Total Transport & Storage	185,039		176,881			176,881	8,158	
Personnel								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	159,469		273,908			273,908	-114,438	
Delegate Benefits	84,011						84,011	
National Staff	118,687		119,325			119,325	-638	
National Society Staff	140,603		85,167			85,167	55,436	
Consultants	20,646		87,091			87,091	-66,445	
Total Personnel	523,415		565,490			565,490	-42,075	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	295,151		66,844			66,844	228,307	
Total Workshops & Training	295,151		66,844			66,844	228,307	
General Expenditure								
Travel	80,117		56,897			56,897	23,220	
Information & Public Relation	41,871		18,877			18,877	22,994	
Office Costs	93,990		82,529			82,529	11,461	
Communications	28,590		35,391			35,391	-6,801	
Professional Fees			426			426	-426	
Financial Charges	5,718		9,418			9,418	-3,700	
Other General Expenses	2,800		4,414			4,414	-1,614	
Total General Expenditure	253,086		207,951			207,951	45,135	
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies	150,061		50,981			50,981	99,080	
Total Contributions & Transfers	150,061		50,981			50,981	99,080	
Programme Support								
Program Support	327,406		212,563			212,563	114,843	
Total Programme Support	327,406		212,563			212,563	114,843	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions	73,734						73,734	
Total Operational Provisions	73,734						73,734	

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		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		5,037,019					5,037,019	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5,037,019	3,272,900					3,272,900	1,764,119
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,764,119					1,764,119	