



## EGYPT: FERRY DISASTER

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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 50,000 (USD 38,109 OR EUR 32,123) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR 2 MONTHS.**

**UN earmarked 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 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.

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



An Egyptian ferry reportedly carrying approximately 1,400 persons sank Friday (3 February) in the Red Sea, 40 miles off the Egyptian port of Hurghada (see map at left). An alarm was raised when the vessel disappeared from radar screens at 19:00 local time, shortly after it began its journey from the Saudi port of Dubah en route to the Egyptian port of Safaga, with a scheduled arrival of 03:00 Egyptian time. Apparently no SOS signal was sent. According to the Egyptian authorities, 263 survivors have been rescued, but hundreds are feared dead. The cause of the accident remains unconfirmed, but there are reports of high winds and a sand storm overnight on Saudi Arabia's west coast, the departure point of the ship. According to reports, approximately 1,200 Egyptians, 99 Saudis, 3 Syrians, 2 Sudanese, and a Canadian were on board the ship. Search and rescue efforts are

expected to continue, but the possibility of survival in the cold waters is decreasing.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far**

Soon after news of the disaster, the Federation's Regional Office in Tunis, Tunisia established contact with the Egyptian Red Crescent. Some 40 Egyptian Red Crescent volunteers from the national society's Red Sea and Cairo committees (ten trained in psychological support) were dispatched to the area to assist the families and friends who congregated waiting for news of relatives and survivors. The team erected tents, and is providing light meals and beverages for the families. Some members of this team are also assessing the situation in order to determine additional action to be undertaken by the national society. A 24-hour service has been activated in the national headquarters as well as in the Red Sea committee.

### **The needs**

The immediate needs are for funds to cover the costs related to the Egyptian Red Crescent's operation, including the transport and accommodation of those volunteers who were mobilized from outside the area. Further details will be provided shortly, upon the completion of the initial assessment.

### **Coordination**

The Egyptian Red Crescent is working closely with the authorities (the Army, the Ministries of Interior and Health, etc) at both national and local levels. The Ministry of Health is currently providing hygiene kits to those persons who are gathered in the area, awaiting word of their loved ones who were on the vessel.

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