

DREF Bulletin 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

TUNISIA: FLASH FLOODS

DREF Bulletin
no. MDRTN002
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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 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this update: 24 October to 2 November 2007.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 105,000¹ allocated from the Federation's DREF on 17 October 2007 to respond to the needs of this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.
- This operation is expected to be completed by 17 December, 2007; a DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 17 March, 2008).

The International Federation undertakes activities that 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.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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¹ Due to the early stage of the operation, an interim financial report will be attached to the following update.

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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>

Background and current situation

During 13-16 October 2007, several regions of northern and eastern Tunisia were affected by torrential rains. 184 mm of rainfall was recorded in some regions in 10 hours time and on average 108 mm in the province of Tunis. The flash floods occurred during the long weekend of the religious celebration of Aid, causing sudden and significant damages. Houses were destroyed; personal belongings and cars swept away; transportation services paralyzed due to the railways and roads being cut; and electricity and water supply services interrupted. In poor neighborhoods, more than 1,000 families were evacuated from their houses and temporarily hosted in public shelters.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



Relief items procured were stored in the Tunisian RC central warehouse

Following discussions with the Tunisian Red Crescent, the regional representation requested a DREF allocation from the International Federation. Within the next few days, CHF 105,000 was released to support the Tunisian RC relief assistance to 500 most vulnerable families. Suppliers were immediately approached, and relief items needed were purchased and sent to the Tunisian RC central warehouse (Megrine) for storage. The items included:

- 1,500 blankets
- 1,500 mattresses
- 600 food parcels containing sugar, rice, pasta, canned food and vegetable oil
- 100 camp beds
- 60 additional bales from the recent bilateral in-kind donation of the Finnish Red Cross

On basis of the plan of action received from the concerned committees, the requested items were sent from the central warehouse to the regional committees. From here they were dispatched to the secondary warehouses, either the Tunisian RC's or in some cases partners', as per arrangements made locally. All logistics procedures, including transport vouchers and receipts to be signed by the families, were in place in order to facilitate the distribution process.

The final assessment and survey in the three governorates affected was completed one week after the disaster. Lists were transmitted to the central committee of the Tunisian RC, with a copy provided to the International Federation's regional representation for North Africa. These lists are very detailed and show the needs of each family, which also reflect the significance of the floods and its impact on poor districts. The families affected are in general composed of single-parents, disabled people, and unemployed parents. In line with the



Relief items were dispatched from the central warehouse to the regional committees, prior to their distribution to the affected people

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needs, the initial assessment was revised in order to include additional families (41) and support replenishment of the Tunisian RC stocks.



Based on the lists that have been transmitted by the regional committees, the central committee of the Tunisian RC has drawn distribution plans for the three affected governorates. The distribution plans were shared with the local authorities (governors of the affected regions) in order to coordinate the support provided to the families. This coordination sometimes led to delays in the initial time schedule of the distribution.

Distributions started in the most affected area, Sabalat Ammar (locality of Kalaat Andalous), according to the schedule set by the Tunisian RC in presence of the president of the National Society and high representatives of the government. The distribution was covered by the local media and national TV. The central committee of the Tunisian RC has coordinated its efforts and after the immediate deployment of 70 volunteers during the emergency phase, it has been able to mobilize the work of 100 volunteers from the regional and local committees.

Distribution of relief items

Locations	Number of families	Mattresses	Blankets	Food parcels
Local committee of Elkabaria	29	58	58	29
Local committee Sidi Hassine	26	52	52	26
Local committee of Sidi El Bachir	26	52	52	26
Local committee of Bab Souika	24	48	48	24
Local committee of Bardo	22	44	44	22
Local committee of Ouardia	21	42	42	21
Local committee of Etahrir	20	40	40	20
Local committee of Omrane	20	40	40	20
Local committee of Elkhadra	17	34	34	17
Sub-total	205	410	410	205
Local committee of Kalaat Andalous	50	100	100	50
Local committee of Mnihla	33	66	66	33
Local committee of Soukra	32	64	64	32
Local committee of Ettadhamen	30	60	60	30
Local committee of S.Thabet	20	40	40	20
Sub-total	165	330	330	165
Local committee of Mornaguia	100	200	200	100
Local committee of Douar Hicher	50	100	100	50
Local committee of Manouba	21	42	42	21
Sub-total	171	342	342	171
Total	541	1,082	1,082	541

Special thanks are addressed to the Swedish, Finnish, and Netherlands Red Cross Societies, and the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent. These National Societies have supported this relief operation through their in kind and cash contributions. United Arab Emirates RC and Netherlands RC have replenished the DREF in the amounts of USD 5,000 and EUR 40,000, respectively.

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