

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Algeria: Floods in Ghardaia

Emergency appeal n° MDRDZ001  
GLIDE n° FF-2008-00178-DZA  
Operations update n° 1  
22 December 2008

**Period covered by this Ops Update:** 17 October to 20 December, 2008

**Appeal target:** CHF 809,626 (USD 716,690 or EUR 531,950)

**Appeal coverage:** 16%; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

### Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 17 October 2008 for CHF 809,626 (USD 716,690 or EUR 531,950) for six months to assist 2,513 families (12,000 beneficiaries).
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 187,166 (USD 165,800 or EUR 121,690) was allocated from the International Federation's DREF to respond to the immediate needs.

**Summary:** Despite a very low coverage of Appeal budget, the Algerian Red Crescent (Algerian RC) continued to provide support to the affected families in the province of Ghardaia as well as in the other provinces affected by the floods. The different branches have deployed their teams, mobilized resources through public appeals and support from the corporate sector.

Thanks to the Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, donations of clothes are on their way at a time when rural populations are affected by an exceptional cold wave. Algerian RC, through its provincial committees, is assessing the situation and identifying the needs of the communities at risk.

The DREF allocation and the funds received from Swedish RC and government, Japanese Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, Hong Kong Red Cross and Libyan Red Crescent are used to procure additional relief items (blankets, mattress, kitchen sets and water-sanitation) and equipment for the National Society's intervention teams. The procurement is made through the regional logistics unit (RLU) in Dubai. Additional pledges are expected to be confirmed by the end of the year.



Algerian RC volunteers have supported affected families to clear the mud and the water from the houses in Ghardaia province

## The situation

On 2 October 2008, floods caused by heavy rains killed 89 people, injured 50, and left many thousands homeless in and around the Algerian oasis town of Ghardaia. 11,800 families are estimated to be affected by

the worst floods the region has experienced since decades. Eight of the 13 districts of the surrounding Ghardaia province have been affected by the floods and thousands of homes have been inundated in the area.

Due to the poor coverage of the Emergency Appeal, the National Society has been procuring relief items thanks to the International Federation's DREF and the contributions from Swedish RC and government, Japanese Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, Hong Kong Red Cross and Libyan Red Crescent. In addition, the Red Crescent has continued to launch public appeals to mobilize the needed resources and respond to the needs of the affected population. Considering the importance of the losses and the number of homeless, the Algerian RC is seeking to continue to support the affected people during the post-emergency and rehabilitation phase.

Currently, seven camps in the commune of Ghardaia are still accommodating families that have not been relocated yet. The final relocation of these families is planned for the end of December. Algerian RC is expecting additional pledges to be in a position to support these families with the provision of additional relief and household items, helping them to settle in their new houses.

## Coordination and partnerships

The coordination with national and local authorities has been effective with the National Society being part of the national disaster plan (NDP), proximity emergency cells (PEC) and neighborhood home evaluation cells (NHEC). The situation is now almost back to normal but Algerian RC still participates in the task force meetings held at the wilaya to assess the situation in the camps and coordinate the support provided to the affected families by the several partners. Due to its large field experience in disaster management, its outreach work done by its intervention teams and volunteers, the role of the National Society in the management of the crisis was publicly acknowledged and recognized by local authorities.

The North African regional representation was immediately in contact with the National Society after the floods hit Ghardaia and offered the support needed through a DREF allocation of CHF 187,166 and the launch of the Emergency Appeal. The emergency phase was well covered thanks to a rapid deployment of the Algerian RC intervention teams, relief goods from other committees of the National Society, and to the large public solidarity.

### **National Society Capacity Building:**

The Algerian RC is planning to organise a workshop with the national intervention team and with the volunteers involved in the operations to evaluate the work achieved in the different provinces, to debrief on the positive and negative aspects of the operation, to assess the coordination and cooperation with other partners and highlight the lessons to be learned. Based on the findings and recommendations, a plan of action will be prepared to strengthen the national and regional intervention team capacity.

The National Society has identified two crucial areas that need to be improved - information and needs assessment capacity. The National Society also expressed its willingness to reinforce its reporting/communications capacity at time of disasters and to develop a small team of specialised volunteers with specific expertise on needs assessment.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### **Overview**

During the reporting period, the Algerian RC branches, with their own means, have continued to support the most affected families through providing psycho-social support, supporting the families in the camps, helping them to clean the houses and restore their living conditions, and organising programmes for the children. The psycho-social support provided to the affected population is a key element in helping the people to cope with and recover from this dramatic situation. In that field, the work provided by the National Society volunteers is well accepted by the communities. To help people to go back to their normal life, the Algerian RC is supporting families and children in the re-establishment of the school programme

Both at central and local level, a resource mobilization effort was made to collect food and non food items to support the people in need. This effort was successful and helped to cover the priorities.

## Progress towards objectives

<b>Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)</b>	
<b>Objective: The specific quantities and quality of relief items distributed to the beneficiaries are appropriate; distributions are carried out according to assessment and selection criteria that identify actual needs and vulnerable groups, and are based on careful registration and a system/process that controls and monitors, and records the movement of such goods.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Affected families are equipped with basic relief items to recover normal living conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Develop with local authorities a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver the intended assistance.</li> <li>• Identify beneficiaries through field surveys (in accordance with criteria in the Algerian RC disaster relief procedures) carried out by RC volunteers among the severely affected population.</li> <li>• Promote safer housing/disaster resilience through distribution of relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local procurement of relief items according to the International Federation's standard procedures and distribution of blankets, beds/mattresses, jerry cans, kitchen sets, and first aid kits.</li> <li>○ Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Progress:

Most of the needs assessments were conducted in the emergency phase of the floods. Beneficiary selection was done in close cooperation with the local authorities. The National Society has a long experience in response in general, and specifically in issues related to marginalized groups, women and other vulnerable people. The selection process was based on the relief guidelines prepared by the Algerian RC headquarters in conformity with the seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

The procurement of additional relief items is on going with the RLU in Dubai. Algerian RC has prepared a plan to dispatch all these relief items to the secondary points and as soon as the items are received, the National Society plans to distribute the blankets and kitchen sets to the most affected families. Mattresses and motor pumps will be kept at the National Society's regional warehouses. Distribution of clothes is also planned as the region is facing an exceptional cold wave.

In the end of December, the Algerian RC is planning a workshop to evaluate and monitor the work of the branches, the role of the national and regional intervention teams and the volunteers.

### Challenges:

Due to limited funding, the Algerian RC could not implement the activities as planned.

<b>Emergency health and care</b>	
<b>Objective: The health risks of the disaster on the affected population is reduced through the provision of preventive, community-level and curative services to 2,513 families (12,000 beneficiaries) in eight districts in Ghardaia region.</b>	
<b>Expected Results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Health risks of the affected population are further assessed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the health risks of the affected population in terms of services, prevention, needs and possibility of communicable diseases.</li> </ul>
Further mortality and morbidity of approximately 2,500 families as a result of the floods are prevented through a primary health care oriented programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide first aid and referral services for affected communities in the following three months.</li> <li>• Support mass polio and anti-meningococci vaccination campaigns with 150 volunteers through social mobilisation and/or independent monitoring in coordination with the Ministry of Health.</li> </ul>

The resilience of the community is improved through better health awareness, knowledge and behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a large disaster risk reduction (DRR) campaign at community and school level. The DRR awareness school programme focusing on floods will be based on the experience of earthquake awareness programme for the development of training/teaching material.</li> </ul>
The scope and quality of the Algerian RC health and care services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide 500 first aid kits/equipments for Algerian RC national/regional intervention teams helping with the capacity building of the local branches.</li> </ul>
Psycho-social support is provided to 2,000 families and 200 staff/volunteers of the Algerian RC as needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide psycho-social support to 200 staff and volunteers of Algerian RC engaged in emergency response.</li> <li>Provide psycho-social support to 5,000 people affected by the emergency through the Algerian RC psychologists' network.</li> <li>Organize a psychological debriefing for staff and volunteers of Algerian RC after the emergency phase.</li> </ul>

#### Progress:

The Algerian RC volunteers continue to provide first aid services and referral services, as well as psycho-social support to the affected families. Together with the local representative from the health department, regular health assessments are made, especially for the families who are still living in the seven camps. The mass vaccination was successfully completed at the end of the emergency phase.

Discussions are ongoing with Norwegian RC to support the DRR campaign through other sources of funding as this campaign is perceived as crucial for the region.

#### Challenges:

Some of the planned activities were not implemented due to lack of funds.

<b>Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion</b>	
<b>Objective: The risk of waterborne diseases has been reduced through the provision of water treatment at household level, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to 2,513 families (or 12,000 beneficiaries) in Ghardaia for one month.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
The existing coverage is assessed with a view to ensuring availability of and access to an adequate water supply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the basic water, sanitation and hygiene promotion and likelihood of water and sanitation related diseases in the affected population.</li> <li>Based on this assessment, procure and distribute to the beneficiaries the necessary items to treat the water (powder and sachets)</li> </ul>
The health status of the population is improved through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a hygiene promotion campaign with the Ministry of Health within the affected population focusing on behaviour change and targeting 10,000 people in eight districts affected in the Ghardaia region.</li> <li>Provide chlorine tablets and water sanitation promotional materials to be used in the health promotion campaign.</li> </ul>
The scope and quality of the Algerian RC's water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a training on PHAST, water supply, sanitation, etc. for 50 national intervention teams, volunteers, and Algerian RC staff in the affected branches within the next six months.</li> </ul>

#### Progress:

As no procurement of tablets was made, the activity was not implemented. The responsibility for this activity was given back to the health authorities and the role of the volunteers was to support these authorities in conducting assessment in the communities at risk and ensure some awareness sessions promoting hygiene are delivered.

**Challenges:**

Depending on the availability of funds, the Algerian RC wants to maintain the water and sanitation workshop and is looking for some funding sources to ensure such a training for its volunteers.

Logistics	
Objective: The local logistics capacity is assessed and reinforced.	
Expected results	Activities planned
<p>Mobilization of relief goods including reception of all incoming goods, warehousing and efficient dispatch to the final distribution points is coordinated.</p> <p>Logistics capacity through logistics and relief workshops are developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilize specific relief items to respond to needs in the field and coordinate with donors regarding outstanding needs (North Africa regional representation). International shipments will be coordinated through the Dubai Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) with close communication with the field. Intended shipments should be advised to the RLU so commodity tracking numbers (CTN) can be issued.</li> <li>• Support the relief operations through delivering a range of relief items in line with operational priorities.</li> <li>• Maintain a detailed and up to date resource mobilisation table available upon request (Dubai RLU).</li> <li>• Conduct a relief and logistics workshop for the Algerian RC staff and volunteers.</li> <li>• Liaise and coordinate actions with the local authorities and other key actors to ensure that the logistics operations utilize all information in order to be as efficient and effective as possible.</li> </ul>

The RLU in Dubai is supporting the operation through the preparation of a resource mobilization table and the procurement of the relief items. The relief and logistics workshop is planned for a later stage.

### Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Algerian RC intervention and assistance programme was appreciated by the local authorities. The local and national press very positively highlighted the role of the Red Crescent and the valuable assistance provided to the population in need. The president of Algerian RC invited a delegation of representatives of the Algerian parliament to Ghardaia. The visit had a great impact and was followed by a financial contribution but more importantly the representatives asked the president to organize a one day briefing at the parliament to present the National Society, its strategic plans and discuss the support that can be provided in the field. The session is planned for mid January 2009 and is an excellent opportunity for advocacy.

This operation has also brought new partners from the corporate sectors who have expressed their intentions to continue to support the National Society on a more general basis.

### 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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**[<Updated donor response report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)**

**Donor response to MDRDZ001 - Algeria - Floods in Ghardaia**

TIMEFRAME: 11 Oct 08 to 30 Apr 09

LOCATION: Algeria

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	809,626
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	130,373
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	16%

Updated on: 22 Dec 2008

Currency	Amount	Goal 1: Disaster Management CHF	Goal 2: Health and Care CHF	Goal 3: Capacity Building CHF	Goal 4: Principles and Values CHF	Coordination CHF	Total CHF	
<b>BUDGET</b>		<b>809,626</b>					<b>809,626</b>	
<b>FUNDING</b>								
<b>Opening Balance</b>								
<b>Income</b>								
<b>Cash contributions (received and pledged)</b>								
Finnish Red Cross	EUR	4,000	6,169				<b>6,169</b>	
Hong Kong Red Cross	HKD	33,930	5,237				<b>5,237</b>	
Japanese Red Cross	CHF	26,700	26,700				<b>26,700</b>	
Libyan Red Crescent	CHF	3,000	3,000				<b>3,000</b>	
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	SEK	600,000	83,925				<b>83,925</b>	
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent	USD	5,000	5,342				<b>5,342</b>	
<b>Total Cash contributions</b>		<b>130,373</b>					<b>130,373</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>130,373</b>					<b>130,373</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>		<b>130,373</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>130,373</b>	
<b>COVERAGE</b>		<b>16%</b>					<b>16%</b>	