

DREF operation update



Lebanon: Internal Disturbance

DREF operation n° MDRLB001
Update n° 1
20 May 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update: 12 May to 19 May, 2008.

Summary: CHF 100,000 was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 12 May, 2008 to support the National Society in delivering emergency first aid assistance during recent large scale armed clashes which occurred throughout the country, as well as to provide emergency stock in the event of a further deterioration of the situation.

Following extensive clashes between rival factions in several regions of Lebanon over the past two weeks, the fighting eased after an Arab initiative to engage all leaders in a national dialogue in Qatar. As a result, the Lebanese Red Cross (Lebanese RC) entered into a period of reduced operational activity compared with the previous week, although maintaining high state of preparedness. While it is difficult to predict the turn of events or the outcome of the Qatar discussions at this

stage, the Lebanese RC reviewed its immediate needs and has requested the DREF allocation to be reduced and focused on reimbursement of station allowances as well as the provision of critical preparedness stock. **The current support requested from DREF amounts to CHF 70,000 (USD 66,995 or EUR 42,950).** There is a positive indication from the Norwegian Red Cross to provide full funding to reimburse the DREF.

The clashes of the previous week resulted in the destruction of one Lebanese RC Emergency Medical Service (EMS) station and the severe injury of one of its first aid volunteers.

This operation is expected to be completed by 31 July, 2008. In line with International Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 31 October, 2008).



Lebanese Red Cross Emergency Medical Services are responding to the needs resulting from the internal disturbance in Lebanon. Source: Lebanese RC.

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Since 7 May, the political and security related situation of Lebanon has deteriorated to an extent not witnessed since the civil war. The recent clashes were in many ways a peak in a political paralysis which has dominated the country since the end of 2006 and characterized by a dysfunctional parliament and the failure to elect a new president since November 2007. The inherent fear that the political diatribe would disintegrate into armed confrontation was realized following an initiative by the Government of Lebanon to investigate the legality of the Hezbollah communications network and remove the head of security from the airport. The clashes which started between rival factions in west Beirut soon spread to factional fighting in areas of Mount Lebanon, the Bekaa valley, the northern area around Tripoli city as well as into the southern city of Saïda.

An Arab league initiative to end the violence last week called for all representations to meet in Doha, Qatar, to resolve the political crisis fuelling the armed confrontations. While the fighting stopped and as a result air, sea and road access were reopened, it still remains difficult to predict the turn of events in the near future.

The current clashes were not a stand alone event, with the past 12 months being dominated by security incidents deriving from politically motivated assassinations, indiscriminate bomb attacks, attacks against the international peacekeeping force, United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and an internal conflict in the Palestinian camp of Nahr el Bared last summer.

Throughout all these events, the Lebanese RC EMSs have been evacuating wounded and sick civilians as well as dead bodies. In addition, they have conducted secondary transportation to medical facilities and provided mobile first aid posts in some cases.

Coordination and partnerships

The Lebanese RC, the International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have been assuring joint coordination of activities related to the support to the EMS field operations. The Lebanese RC has been providing daily situation updates and coordinated movements of partner National Societies (PNSs) currently with in-country delegations. Furthermore, any required movement in and out of the borders by Movement partners has been facilitated by the Lebanese RC.

The National Society has also maintained constant communication with the Lebanese army and all parties involved in order to ensure the protection of its volunteers during their missions. The Lebanese RC is mandated by the authorities to provide the emergency services in the country and cover 80% of all daily emergency calls.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Since the beginning of the clashes, the EMSs have reported the following missions:

Total number of missions resulting from the conflict
7 May 2008 – 12 a.m. to 14 May 2008 – 7 a.m.

	Wounded	Dead	Emergency Response and Transport	Transport of Civilians
Total	80	42	321	75

EMS stations in western Beirut, southern Mount Lebanon, western Bekaa, Baalbek, Tripoli and Halba carried out more than 400 missions related to the events. They were supported by teams from all other stations. Unfortunately, the Halba station had to be evacuated and was severely damaged as a result of the fighting and one Lebanese RC EMS volunteer was hit by shrapnel while returning home following his duty. He was in intensive care with severe injury to his spine.

Emergency Health Services

Objective: To assist and assure the capacity of the Lebanese RC Emergency Medical Services to respond to an increased number of emergency calls.

Activities planned:

Funding from the DREF is released to reimburse the additional costs related to the increased number of missions; primarily covering fuel and station allowances. The Lebanese RC had predicted a longer period of insecurity when the initial DREF operation was launched; however, the situation has temporarily stabilized in most areas. On the other hand, in order to ensure ongoing preparedness, the EMS heads of districts, the operation rooms and stations were briefed to be prepared for a medium term period of instability from two to three months. As a result, the Lebanese RC has further broken down its needs for the DREF into the following:

Category		Item	Explanatory Note
1	Reimbursement of emergency expenditure	Emergency station allowance	
		Emergency fuel allowance	
2	Emergency preparedness for EMS stations	Diesel generators	Due to regular electricity cuts, this contribution will ensure power for communication systems and patient care rooms.
		Station allowance	Extra allowance to stations in the high risk areas (please see table in the DREF Operation report).
3	Emergency preparedness for EMS headquarters	Provision of emergency stock of portable VHF radios.	

Progress and impact:

The reimbursement of funds is underway and the process to provide the emergency stock has started.

Challenges:

The main challenge for the Lebanese RC and its partners is to predict how the situation will evolve. While there is hope that the situation will stabilize, the past 12 months and the recent events clearly indicate the volatility of the context and the need to assure an operational capacity beyond the daily functioning of the National Society.

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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Budget Summary - Lebanon Internal Disturbance - MDRLB001

Item	Total Costs (CHF)
Supplies	31,700
20 Portable VHF Radios	6,700
20 Diesel Eletric Generators	25,000
Transport	7,870
Fuel Delegation Vehicle (1 month)	1,200
Ambulance Fuel (6670 Litres)	6,670
Personell	23,800
Ambulance Station Allowances (20 Stations - 3 Month)	23,800
Travel and Administration	2,080
Administration Costs	2,080
Program Management Support (6.5%)	4,550
Total CHF	70,000