

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Morocco: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRMA001
GLIDE n° FF-2008-000202-MAR
Operations update n° 1
22 December 2008

Period covered by this Ops Update: 7 November to 20 December, 2008;

Appeal target: CHF 1,618,182 (USD 1,413,260 or EUR 1,108,344);

Appeal coverage: 7%; [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was launched on 7 November 2008 for CHF 1,618,182 (USD 1,413,260 or EUR 1,108,344) for six months to assist 10,000 beneficiaries.
- The coverage of the Appeal remains very low. Soft pledges and applications to governmental funding were processed from some National Societies and are still to be confirmed. In case of rejection of these applications, the budget may have to be revised.

Summary:

Morocco has been affected by torrential rains since early October, causing 40 deaths and hundreds of homeless being accommodated in temporary shelters or at relatives' homes in 16 provinces of the country.

The Moroccan Red Crescent (Moroccan RC) has been very active, providing 6,000 people with food, blankets, kitchen utensils and clothing. More than 200 National Society volunteers and staff participated in the rescue operations and evacuations, and provided first aid and psycho-social support to the families affected by the disaster. These relief items were provided from the Moroccan RC stocks and the Red Crescent has demonstrated the efficiency of having well-trained volunteers and pre-positioned emergency stocks.

As predicted, the weather did not improve in Morocco and rains continued to affect several regions in November. Since the beginning of December, some important snow falls, coupled with an unprecedented cold wave, have been recorded. Moroccan authorities are preparing to handle cold fronts in mountainous regions over 1,500 metres above sea level. A comprehensive plan to deal with the effects of frigid temperatures and snowfalls is targeted at 400,000 people and around 1,000 villages across 19 provinces. The Moroccan RC is on stand-by, reassessing its reserves and stocks, planning for dispatching the relief items in key strategic areas, and preparing its volunteers locally for action. Contacts are kept with local authorities, both at central and local level.

The funds received from British Red Cross, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, Libyan Red Crescent and Finnish Red Cross are used to procure additional relief items to continue the distribution to affected families and to refurbish the depleted stocks in the regions at risk in order to be better prepared for foreseen crises or emergencies in this coming winter period.



Since early October, torrential rains have hit several cities in the Kingdom of Morocco causing casualties and material loss

The situation

Torrential rains have hit several cities in the Kingdom of Morocco since early October, causing significant casualties (40 deaths and hundreds of homeless) and material damage. Considerable live stocks have been lost, which has had an effect on the economy in that area.

These rains have far exceeded in some provinces the annual average recorded during the last fifty years. New climatic patterns are affecting the North Africa region, increasing the vulnerability of poor communities. The seasonal forecast for October to December 2008 indicated that Morocco would continue to experience above-normal precipitation and since the beginning of December some important snow falls and cold wave have been recorded.

The Moroccan RC has continued to support the affected families through managing local donations and distributing relief items from its own stocks. As a result of several needs assessments made by Moroccan RC branch directors and volunteers during October and the close monitoring by all key players, the National Society managed to organize the transport and distribution of emergency relief. Pre-positioned stocks were mobilized from the Skhirat central warehouse, regional warehouses of Oujda and Al-Hoceima, and provincial warehouses in Meknes, Marrakech and Agadir. Moroccan RC volunteers initially distributed food and non-food items (food parcels, blankets, clothing and kitchen sets) to over 1,200 families.

October 2008 Relief items from Moroccan RC stocks	Relief items distributed in the 16 provinces affected by the floods	Reinforcement and re- positioning of relief items stocks in regional warehouses	Total of relief items taken from Moroccan RC stocks for the floods
Blankets	2,800	2,500	5,300
Tents 4x4	50	190	240
Tents 6x6		10	10
Tarpaulins	50	150	200
Kitchen sets	650	800	1,450
Clothes (tons)	3		3t
Food parcels	30,000		30,000
Mattress		300	300
Jerrycans		750	750
Soap (kgs)		1,600	1,600

However, considering the very limited response, the National Society had to scale down its activities in the field and freeze the planned rehabilitation phase until further funding is made available for the activities. The needs identified in the Emergency Appeal are still very valid especially with the cold wave that currently hits the mountainous regions of eastern high Atlas. Moroccans are still mindful of last year's tragedy in the village of Angfou in Khenifra province, when some 30 people lost their lives after heavy snowfalls left the community isolated. Most of the reported fatalities were children and the elderly.

According to a large survey conducted by the authorities, 935 small villages in 19 provinces, representing a population of 376,000 people, could be affected if the cold wave persists. 400 of these small and remote villages were identified at high risks. Moroccan authorities are preparing ways to handle cold fronts in mountainous regions over 1,500 metres above sea level. A comprehensive plan to deal with the effects of frigid temperatures and snowfalls was announced last week in Rabat during a governmental council. The plan is aimed at preventing the repetition of the devastation witnessed by Morocco over the last few years in villages such as Angfou and Tounfite. The plan involves a number of state departments, including the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Equipment, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Education, the High Commission for Water and Forests, the National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency and security services. During the government council meeting, the Moroccan minister of interior stated that provincial and local committees have already assessed the situation on the ground, suggested ways to implement effective solutions to the problems faced by residents and ensured that they are not isolated. These committees have inspected roads, telecommunications networks, supply depots, heating equipment, and healthcare and school infrastructures. Their priorities are to ensure that villages are not cut off, to repair damaged telephone lines, to verify that supply centres are fully stocked, to provide heating equipment, and to prepare healthcare and school infrastructures. The

Moroccan RC, as an auxiliary to the authorities and through its unique networks of volunteers in local committees, is a key partner at local level to support this national plan, building through its disaster risk reduction (DRR) programme and through stronger communities better prepared to mitigate the impact of the disasters and to cope with the risks.

Coordination and partnerships

The Moroccan RC is part of the national emergency response system. At the local level, the National Society works together with local authorities and community leaders.

The International Federation's regional representation for North Africa in Tunis continues to provide technical support and advice to the Moroccan RC, with a focus on the areas of planning, communication, international representation and fundraising. It ensures and follows up on the coordination and information with the wider Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement actors and continues to closely monitor the development of the situation together with partners.

The Spanish Red Cross, through the International Federation/International Development of West African Red Cross (IDWARC) programme, plans to re-allocate some of its disaster management programme funding to support the refurbishment of Moroccan RC stocks, complementing activities outlined in the Emergency Appeal. The French Red Cross continues to support the training of national first aid intervention teams and plans to evaluate through this operation the impact of the Moroccan RC's response and intervention capacity at regional level.

National Society Capacity Building:

The Moroccan RC has a considerable experience in responding to emergencies and in community awareness work. Its operational capacity has been developed through a number of extensive disaster relief and preparedness programmes over the last few years. However, despite the National Society's experience in managing relief, there remains a need to further strengthen its management and response capacity.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Very little progress was recorded within the reporting period due to the poor coverage of the Emergency Appeal. Donations were made available from and will be used to procure some additional relief items (blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, tarpaulins) in view of the cold season and the needs to assist the remote rural population already affected by the ongoing cold wave. This procurement will be complemented by the generous in kind donations (clothes) from Finnish RC and Swedish RC.

As soon as the relief items are received by the National Society, they will be dispatched according to a distribution plan prepared by the Moroccan RC's disaster management unit. Some of the items will be distributed to the families in need and the other ones will be pre-positioned in key strategic warehouses in the regions at risks.

Additional pledges are expected to be confirmed which will allow the National Society to implement its plan of action and respond to the needs identified.

The regional representation for North Africa is promoting external funding support, knowledge sharing and skills transfer. It provides a constant source of encouragement and solidarity for Moroccan RC staff and volunteers.

Progress towards objectives

Phase I - Immediate emergency response

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

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. Distributions will be based on careful registration and a system/process that controls and monitors, and records the movement of such goods.

Expected results	Activities planned
Affected families are equipped with the basic relief items to recover normal living conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop with local authorities' beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. Beneficiaries are identified through field surveys (in accordance with criteria in the Moroccan RC disaster relief procedures) carried out by Red Crescent volunteers among the severely affected population. • Provision and distribution of appropriate relief items to identified beneficiaries as required over the coming weeks (as bad weather continues) and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Distribute relief items (blankets, bed/mattresses, jerrycans, and kitchen sets) ❖ Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress/Challenges

The Moroccan RC intervention teams have conducted several assessments in the affected regions to identify the needs of the population. The results of the assessments were discussed within the tasks force and coordination cells. So far, procurement of the relief items are ongoing, assisted by the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) based in Dubai. So far, no replenishment was possible due to the lack of funding, and most of the assistance and distribution of relief items were reduced or terminated by the National Society.

Emergency health and care	
Objective: The health risks of the emergency on the affected population is reduced through the provision of preventive, community-level services to 10,000 families (50,000 beneficiaries) in the 16 regions affected for 6 months.	
Expected Results	Activities planned
The quality of the Moroccan RC health and care services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce/initiate community based first aid (CBFA) activities as soon as possible to create a sustainable community approach through training of 200 volunteers and the provision of CBFA in affected areas. • Provide 500 first aid bags/kits/equipment for Moroccan RC's national/regional intervention helping with the capacity building of the local branches.

Progress/Challenges

As no funding was made available, the Moroccan RC local committees and their volunteers have decided to integrate the planned CBFA activities into their long term training programmes for these affected communities. It is hoped that additional funding will be made available to reinforce this crucial programme.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion	
Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of water treatment for household level, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to affected families.	
Expected results	Activities planned
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"> • Assess the basic water, sanitation and hygiene promotion and likelihood of water and sanitation related diseases in the affected population. • Based on this assessment, procure and distribute the necessary items to treat the water (high test hypochlorite powder and purifier of water sachets).
The health status of the population is improved through behaviour change and hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct with the Ministry of Health a hygiene promotion campaign within the affected population focusing on behaviour change and targeting 10,000 people in 16 provinces affected.

promotion activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide chlorine tablets and water sanitation promotional material to be used in the health promotion campaign.
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Progress/Challenges

None of these activities were conducted except for some awareness sessions on water-related diseases and hygiene promotion, which were carried out by the volunteers themselves when providing support to the families.

Capacity Building for preparedness and response	
Objective 1: The disaster response capacity of targeted National Societies branches in region at risks have been improved.	
Objective 2: The capacities of communities exposed to risks have been strengthened.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Volunteers at branch level are trained in rapid response, and communities are sensitized in risk reduction through VCA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct contingency planning training in flood prone areas. • Organise disaster management workshops (relief, logistics, emergency/rapid needs assessment, beneficiary identification and distribution methodology). • Conduct VCA workshops involving community leaders' participation.
The resilience of the community is improved through better health awareness, knowledge and behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a large DRR campaign at community and school level, with a focus on the following modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Hygiene promotion. ❖ Risks of water-borne diseases. ❖ Risk of food poisoning. ❖ Risk of landslides, rockslides and electrical hazards. ❖ Recovery of dead animals and their transportation for burial. ❖ Promotion of safer housing/disaster resilient communities <p>The DRR awareness school programme, focusing on floods (experience of earthquake awareness programme) will be used for the development of training/teaching material.</p>

Progress/Challenges

None of these activities were developed or implemented as no funding was made available. However, the National Society is developing its National DRR Strategy and through the confirmation of soft pledges expects to be in a position to pilot its DRR programme in the affected areas. As a reminder, together with the Ministry of Environment, the Moroccan RC has been developing and producing some educational material on floods. Some contacts were made with the Ministry of Education to work in partnership on a school programme.

Logistics	
Objective: The local logistics and organisational capacity is reinforced.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Relief goods are mobilized in a coordinated manner including reception of all incoming goods; warehousing and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Moroccan RC in establishing an adequate resource mobilization table and relief system with the support of the RLU.
The International Federation will support Moroccan RC to build and enhance its logistics capacity through logistics and relief workshops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a relief and logistics workshop for the Moroccan RC staff and volunteers.

The RLU in Dubai was approached for the procurement of relief items. The procurement of blankets, kitchen sets, tarpaulins and mattresses is still not completed due to the late transfer of funds, but will be through the RLU.

The RLU is very supportive in handling the resource mobilization table and helping the Swedish RC and the Finnish RC to send their in kind donations.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Moroccan RC is maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders. Information is regularly provided and communicated to the regional representation for North Africa.

The Moroccan RC is using the opportunity to advocate for its disaster management programme, outlining to the government and policy makers the importance for better preparedness for and response to natural disasters as well as DRR. The need for timely preparedness, mitigation, local capacities and prevention is stressed.

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>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Donor response to appeal MDRMA001 - Morocco - Floods

TIMEFRAME: 07 Nov 08 to 30 Apr 09

LOCATION: Morocco

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	1,618,182
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	107,054
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	7%

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
BUDGET		1,618,182					1,618,182
FUNDING							
<u>Opening Balance</u>							
Income							
Cash contributions							
British Red Cross	GBP	50,000	91,777				91,777
Finnish Red Cross	EUR	3,200	4,935				4,935
Libyan Red Crescent	CHF	5,000	5,000				5,000
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent	USD	5,000	5,342				5,342
Total Cash contributions		107,054					107,054
Total Income		107,054					107,054
TOTAL FUNDING		107,054	0	0	0	0	107,054
COVERAGE		7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%