

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Tunisia: Flash Floods

DREF operation n° MDRTN003
GLIDE n° FF-2009-000204-TUN
Update n° 1
17 February 2010

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: 29 September to 30 November, 2009.

Summary: CHF 160,749 (USD 155,105 or EUR 106,435) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 29 September, 2009 to support the Tunisian Red Crescent Society (Tunisian RC) in delivering assistance to some 5,100 beneficiaries.

Summary:

Two months after the floods, the situation in the six affected regions of Tunisia is coming back to normal thanks to the prompt response of the government and the local actors including the Tunisian RC. During this period, the Tunisian RC, supported by the International Federation, has conducted assessments, prepared the beneficiaries lists, procured the relief items and is ready for the distribution. The National Society has as well planned for the replenishment of its contingency stock which was used for the first days of response.



Evaluation team from Tunisian Red Crescent with a family affected. Photo: Tunisian Red Crescent.

On the other hand, many initiatives have been taken to decrease the suffering of the affected population as well as to increase the preparedness at the local community level. For that, a floods preparedness campaign has started in the affected areas spreading awareness on the precautions that should be taken in case of new floods. This is addition to the hygiene promotion campaigns that was/is still implemented in the affected regions. Considering a meteorological high alert, the regional representation has organised a meeting at the Tunisian/Algerian border to assess the resources and the response capacities of both Tunisian and Algerian Red Crescent Societies. The International Federation has also supported the Tunisian RC by training the branches in the affected regions on logistic rules and procedures.

Throughout the operation, Tunisian RC volunteers were mobilized in the six affected governorates to support the civil defence in the evacuation of the families to temporary shelters, transportation of the injured people to medical structures, in addition to offering first aid and psycho-social support.

This operation is expected to be implemented in six months, and completed by 31 March 2010. In line with International Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 30 June 2010).

European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) contributed EUR 85,000 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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

The situation

On 22 September, floods resulting from heavy rain in many parts of Tunisia killed 17 people and left many wounded. The floods affected mainly six regions, those being Gafsa, Monastir, Mahdia, Sfax, Kasrine and Tozeur. The most affected were the inhabitants of the south-western region of Redeyef in the mining part of Gafsa, which is located in the low-lying area of a mountainous zone. The floods have also affected many other regions in Tunisia, particularly in northern, central and southern Sahel. Many roads have been cut especially in the valleys of Sidi Bouzid, Mahdia (center) and Sfax (south).

The situation in the affected regions is returning to normal. The drinking water distribution system, the sanitary sewers, the power grid, the gas as well as the damaged roads were quickly repaired by the different services. People who lost their houses were accommodated in temporary shelters and then hosted by relatives and other families, waiting for their houses to be rehabilitated.

Coordination and partnerships

Since the first hours of the disaster, there was a high level of communication and coordination between the different actors in the country in general and more specifically in the Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement.

An effective coordination was ensured from the local Tunisian RC representatives in the affected areas with the local authorities and actors, those being the governorates, the civil defence and other active civil organizations who responded to the disaster, limiting by this any duplicating of surveys or response.

Internally, the Tunisian RC has ensured a good flow of information between the evaluation teams, the branches, and the headquarters which was regularly receiving situation updates reports.

The North African regional representation was immediately mobilized and had a continuous contact with the National Society through its secretary general and disaster management coordinator. They agreed on the support needed and requested a DREF allocation of CHF 160,749 (USD 155,105 or EUR 106,435).

The International Federation has also emphasized the importance of coordination by organizing a meeting between Algerian RC and Tunisian RC to discuss common natural threats and possible cooperation during the response operations. The International Federation is also organizing a joint field visit with regional ECHO office in Algiers to monitor the Tunisian RC operation. ECHO is supporting the operation through an allocation of EUR 85,000 from its disaster response fund.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: The specific quantity and quality of goods are distributed to the 850 families/5,100 people, according to assessment and selection criteria that identified actual needs and vulnerable people.

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Procure and distribute relief supplies (food parcels, blankets, mattresses, bed camps, hygiene kits).
- Replenish the National Society's local emergency stocks used during the emergency phase.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress:Assessment and selection of beneficiaries

The Red Crescent local committees, as auxiliaries to the public authorities and being an active player within the national disaster plan, were immediately contacted by the local governorates and integrated in the local disaster emergency cells.

Five Tunisian RC evaluation teams were posted in Kassarine, Gafsa and Sfax in order to evaluate damages, identify the needs and work with the local authorities on selecting the affected families that needed support.

A list of beneficiaries was set in every region according to the vulnerability, poverty and type of damage caused by the disaster. The number of potential beneficiaries as provided by the assessment teams was 850 families (5,100 persons). The number was decreased to 400 families (2,000 people) after the large and effective response of the government.

The families were selected only from five districts as shown below, while the region of Tozeur was taken care of completely by the government:

Region	Gafsa	Sfax	Kasrine	Mahdia	Monastir
Number of families	175	50	100	25	50

Procurement and distribution of relief items

As a result of a Sphere training that the regional representation had organised directly before the disaster, and using the results of the assessment, the Tunisian RC was able to identify the items needed by the affected families. The procurement process was launched immediately after needs were identified but was extremely challenged by the availability of the goods. Most of the suppliers were out of stock mainly after the anticipations of a worse weather and the rushed initiative of local families to replenish their stocks. The quantities procured are as the following:

Item	Ordered quantity
Blankets	9,456
Mattresses	1,205
Food parcels	467
Bed camps	200
Hygiene kits	200

Due to the presidential electoral campaign, the distribution was delayed. It started in early November and was completed on 25 November, just before the Eid al Adha. The hygiene kits are the only items that were not distributed but the distribution will be completed in early December. The distribution to date is as the following:

Item	Gafsa			Sfax			Kasrine			Mahdia			Monastir		
	F	Q	%	F	Q	%	F	Q	%	F	Q	%	F	Q	%
Blankets	175	700	7,4	50	300	3,17	100	600	6,3	25	150	1,6	50	300	3,2
Mattresses	60	60	4,8	50	100	8,29	100	200	16,6	25	50	4,1	50	100	8,3
Food parcels	175	175	37,5	70	50	10,7	100	100	21,4	25	25	5,3	50	50	10,7
Bed camps	20	20	10	0	0	0	100	100	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hygiene kits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

F: Number of families **Q:** Quantity **%:** Percentage of the quantity distributed from the ordered quantity.

Replenishment of the National Society contingency stock

Part of the procurement will be used to replenish the Tunisian RC contingency stock placed at the central warehouse.

Item	Quantity to replenish the Tunisian RC contingency stock	
	Quantity	Percentage
Blankets	7,406	78,32
Mattresses	695	57,67
Food parcels	67	14,34
Bed camps	80	40
Hygiene kits	200	100

This contingency stock is in fact one of the important assets that facilitated the immediate response of the Tunisian RC. It was replenished before the floods by a generous in kind donation from the Finnish Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross. These were directly distributed in the early hours of the disasters.

Following the decrease in the number of families, the quantity of relief items for each family increased. The quantity transferred to the contingency stock of the Tunisian RC also increased allowing the National Society to be one of the first responders in case of further incidents. The climate change happening in Tunisia is making the country more vulnerable to natural hazards, floods and cold weather especially with the start of the winter season.

Emergency health

Objective: Basic health care is provided to the affected people as well as psycho-social support when needed. The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through hygiene promotion to 850 families/5,100 beneficiaries in the six governorates affected by the floods for six months.

Activities planned:

- Provide basic health care and psycho-social support to people in need and ensure restoring family links (RFL) services.
- Conduct training/information programmes for Red Crescent volunteers and beneficiaries, in particular regional hygiene promotion, disease identification and referral advice
- Manage and conduct community awareness activities focusing on good hygiene practices and floods preparedness and readiness

Progress:

The Tunisian RC has responded to the disaster by mobilising its volunteers and supporting the public authorities in the search and rescue, transportation and evacuation of affected population, providing first aid and psycho-social support.

Following the evacuation of the affected population, the volunteers of the Tunisian RC has started a hygiene promotion programme which they have integrated in their community based activities.

Floods awareness campaign

An awareness campaign on the risks of the floods was organized for the population of the five affected regions in line with the distribution. The campaign aimed at better preparing the community to face the floods. The Tunisian RC volunteers are distributing 10,000 leaflets designed and printed for this operation.

Logistics

Objective: The Tunisian RC is supported in the procurement process and the distribution of the goods.

Activities planned:

- Procure goods
- Store and transport relief goods
- Print floods awareness material
- Organise a refresher logistics course for Tunisian RC volunteers

Progress:

Support in the procurement process and organizing transport

The International Federation regional representation has supported the Tunisian RC in procuring the goods by taking care of the procurement process in terms of calling for offers, preparing the comparative bid analysis as well as sending the purchase orders to selected suppliers.

The International Federation has as well helped organizing the transport of the procured goods to the concerned branches as well as to the central warehouse.

Floods preparedness meeting

After the floods that affected several regions, the meteorological anticipations that announced a very strong atmospheric disruption and showers surpassing the seasonal averages on the region bordering Tunisia and Algeria, the regional representation has organized a meeting on floods preparedness gathering 29 participants from five Algerian Wilayas (El teref, Annaba, El Oued, Tébessa and Souk Ahrass) and eight Tunisian regions (Gafsa, Jandouba, Manouba, Benarouss, Tunis, Tataouine, Kasrine and Benzert) - all on the border line. The workshop was organised in Tabarka and aimed at:

- Assessing National Societies' resources and response capacities.
- Analyzing risks and vulnerabilities linked to the strong rains recorded recently in the region.
- Enhancing the communication and the cooperation between the Tunisian RC and the Algerian RC on the local level.
- Improving contingency planning and rapid intervention at local, regional and national levels.
- Increasing the awareness of the participants on the necessity of developing better interaction and partnership with national meteorology institutes.
- Discuss National Society's roles and mandates within their national disaster plans.

The disaster management information systems (DMIS) officer in the operation support department in the secretariat was invited to explain to the participants the International Federation's emergency systems and mechanisms available for National Societies (DMIS, early warning early action and maps database). The officer has also worked with the participants on a mapping exercise intending at anticipating possible future natural threats and extreme weather consequences.

The meeting allowed both National Societies to highlight the importance of the communication, effective reporting and the coordination with the authorities (civil defence, army and other civil organizations) during disasters. It also assisted in revitalising the vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) processes that have already started in the National Societies.

Logistic training

The International Federation has also organized a logistic training for 30 participants involving five people (volunteers and people in charge) from each affected region. The training was done in the Tunisian RC training centre in Megrine just before the distribution of items. The workshop introduced the participants to the logistic rules and procedures in terms of procurement and warehousing as well as trained them on the distribution process and the logistics of transport. The trainees' feedback was very positive in terms of their willingness to improve the logistic practices and to reinforce the current set-up.

These climate change phenomena are rather new for the Tunisian population and the Tunisian RC which expressed their willingness to be better prepared to face these new humanitarian challenges. In order to benefit from this experience, the regional representation plans to organize an evaluation workshop with the participation of the Tunisian RC coordinators, civil defence, public health services and the volunteers who were involved in the operation, in order to appraise the operation, and reflect on the lessons learnt and future steps to be taken.

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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<Financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRTN003 - Tunisia - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/09-2009/11
Budget Timeframe	2009/09-2010/03
Appeal	MDRTN003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	160,749					160,749
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	160,749					160,749
C5. Other Income	160,749					160,749
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	160,749					160,749
D. Total Funding = B + C	160,749					160,749
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	160,749					160,749
E. Expenditure	-61,607					-61,607
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	99,142					99,142

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)	160,749						160,749	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	84,800	15,743					15,743	69,057
Food	22,000	22,531					22,531	-531
Other Supplies & Services	11,000	5,686					5,686	5,314
Total Supplies	117,800	43,960					43,960	73,840
Transport & Storage								
Storage	500							500
Distribution & Monitoring	2,000							2,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,000							2,000
Total Transport & Storage	4,500							4,500
Personnel								
National Staff	1,000	1,295					1,295	-295
National Society Staff	5,000							5,000
Total Personnel	6,000	1,295					1,295	4,705
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	15,000	5,422					5,422	9,578
Total Workshops & Training	15,000	5,422					5,422	9,578
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relation	4,000	5,043					5,043	-1,043
Office Costs	2,000	339					339	1,661
Communications	500	718					718	-218
Financial Charges	500	825					825	-325
Total General Expenditure	7,000	6,924					6,924	76
Programme Support								
Program Support	10,449	4,004					4,004	6,444
Total Programme Support	10,449	4,004					4,004	6,444
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	160,749	61,607					61,607	99,142
VARIANCE (C - D)		99,142					99,142	