

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO: FLOODS

preliminary appeal no: 02/96
26th January 1996

***THIS PRELIMINARY APPEAL
SEEKS CHF 1,265,000
IN CASH AND KIND TO ASSIST
18,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 3 MONTHS***

Summary

The worst floods in 25 years are presently sweeping through Morocco after the North African country endured heavy rains lasting nearly two months. The rains are continuing, threatening to exacerbate the situation still further. Seven prefectures and eleven provinces have been particularly badly affected, and the national government has activated its disaster response plan to assist the 60,000 people who have lost their homes or belongings in the floods.

The Moroccan Red Crescent Society (MRCS) has already played a major role in mitigating the effects of the flood waters. Staff and volunteers have rescued stranded families from the flooding and completed distributions of all the National Society's stocks of food and shelter material. The International Federation immediately made CHF 50,000 available from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to assist the purchase of further relief goods.

The Intended Operation

The MRCS estimates that 1,535 mt of foodstuffs — including rice, wheat, oil, beans, sugar, lentils, milk powder and tea — will be needed to support 18,000 of the most vulnerable victims of the floods in the affected prefectures and provinces over the next three weeks. Emergency shelter and clothing needs also mean that tents, blankets, used clothing, shoes and camp beds will be required. All relief operations are scheduled to be completed by March 1996.

The Disaster

The Kingdom of Morocco has suffered badly from heavy rains that have swept across North Africa from December 1995 to the present. According to the Ministry of the Interior, by 23 January some 60,000 people had been directly affected by the flooding, with a number of deaths being registered. Many shanty towns have been devastated and several thousand hectares of agricultural land inundated by the floods. The heavy rains are expected to continue today (26 January), and the situation is likely to deteriorate rapidly if they do not stop soon.

The Response so far

Government Action •

The government has instituted the plan 'ORSEC' (the National Disaster Response Plan) in the following prefectures:

- Ain Sebâa Hay Mohammedi (Wilaya de Casablanca);
- Derb Soltan (Wilaya de Casablanca);
- Hay Hassani Ain Chock (Wilaya de Casablanca);
- Mechouar Casablanca (Wilaya de Casablanca);
- Mohammedia (Wilaya de Casablanca);

and in the provinces of Benslimane, Taounate, Taroudant, Chaouen, Essaouira, Kénitra, Larache, Safi, Sidi Kacem, Skhirat-Témara and Tanger. A commission has been created to follow up the emergency measures.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action •

The Moroccan Red Crescent Society (MRCS) has been active in both the immediate rescue of stranded families in the flooded areas as well as assisting those who have lost either their houses, animals, crops or food stores. The local committees of the MRCS have distributed all of their buffer stocks of food and shelter material.

The Federation also immediately released CHF 50,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to assist the National Society in its disaster response measures.

The Needs to be met

The Moroccan Red Crescent Society estimates that the following supplies will be needed to meet immediate needs in the flooded areas for the next 20 days:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Food			
Rice	300 mt	Wheat	480 mt
Milk Powder	90 mt *	Sugar	240 mt
Oil	180 mt	Beans	120 mt
Tea	5 mt	Lentils	120 mt
Non-Food			
Blankets	5,000 units	Shoes	5 mt
Tents	300 units	Camp Beds	600 units
Used Clothes	20 mt	Inflatable Boats	5 units

* Only to be distributed in institutions.

Red Crescent Objectives

- For the Moroccan Red Crescent Society to continue its work in rescuing victims isolated by the flooding, notably those who are stranded.
- To distribute food and shelter material to the most vulnerable, particularly those made homeless by the flooding.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

Emergency Phase: *January 1996* •

- Rescue and evacuate flood victims.
- Purchase food items and receive non-food items.
- Distribute the food and shelter.

Phase Two: *February-March 1996* •

- Purchase food items and receive non-food items.
- Distribute the food.

Capacity of the National Society •

The Moroccan Red Crescent Society is well established across the country. It has a number of mobile medical units and is can raise a considerable number of volunteers. Previous floods, the last dating from August 1995, show that the National Society is capable of managing the purchase and distribution of supplies in an effective manner.

Present Capacity of the Federation in The Kingdom of Morocco •

The Federation is not represented in Morocco, but recent missions have been carried out in August and September 1995 (to analyse flood-relief and disaster preparedness activities).

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

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