

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

EGYPT: TRAIN COLLISION

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve 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.

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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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Two trains collided in the Nile Delta, north of Cairo, on Monday 21 August, 2006. The accident took place about 06:30 AM near Qalyub District, about 20 kms to Cairo. One of the trains derailed and overturned. According to the latest field sources, it was estimated at the end of the day that 58 people were killed and more

than 140 injured. Ambulance and rescue workers were quickly on the site and continue to work on search and rescue. Injured people are transferred and dispatched to 6 hospitals in the region.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A team of 25 Egyptian Red Crescent youth volunteers was immediately sent to the site, helping on the rescue and transport of injured people, providing First Aid and psychological support to the families. Another group of 25 volunteers was also quickly sent to the morgue in Cairo, where 2,000 people (families of people that died) gathered. The group provided psychological support to the families, helping some of them in administrative procedures. In addition, juice, water, snacks and light meals were distributed, considering the climatic and psychological conditions.

Egyptian Red Crescent volunteers also visited the injured people in the hospitals. The support of these volunteers is planned to continue for two to three days and will be mainly focused on assistance to the families of the dead or injured people.

The Regional Office for North Africa was in immediate contact with the National Society. The Head of Office is currently on mission in Cairo and is following the situation together with the Secretary General of the Egyptian Red Crescent and its team. The Egyptian RC has expressed the need for assistance for the next few days, in terms of indemnities and transport of the volunteers, food and hygiene items for the families and extra medical supplies. In addition, an emotional debriefing is planned for the volunteers at the end of the week. This assistance will be covered so far by the budget of the Regional Office and therefore, unless a deterioration of the situation or a new request for assistance from the Egyptian RC is received, no allocation from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) will be requested.

The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Solidarity, and Civil Defence were involved in the operation since the beginning and the Egyptian RC was in close contact with these authorities, coordinating the action on the site and in Cairo.

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