

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Egypt: Palestinian pilgrims stranded in Arish

DREF operation n° MDREG006
31 December 2007

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.

CHF 150,000 (USD 134,230 or EUR 91,300) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (Egyptian RCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,600 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

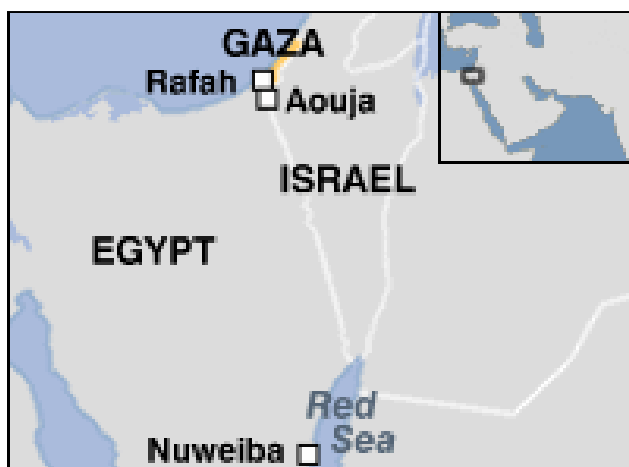
Summary: The Egyptian RCS is seeking urgent support for the Palestinian pilgrims stranded in Arish. On Sunday, 30 December, 1,650 pilgrims have arrived and the remaining are expected within the next days, amounting to a total of 2,600 people.

The Egyptian RCS branch in Arish immediately mobilized and deployed its teams of volunteers and already distributed blankets, mattresses and pillows from their own stocks to cover the immediate needs. The operation is well coordinated with the Governorate of North Sinai.

With the DREF support, basic food and non-food relief items will be purchased to cover the needs of stranded people for the next few days/weeks.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 15 days, and will therefore be completed by mid-January, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 15 April, 2008).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details>](#)



Location of the stranded Palestinian pilgrims

The situation

Some of the 2,000 Palestinians who were stranded on Egypt's Red Sea border of Nuweiba, after completing the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, have been allowed to continue their journey back to Gaza.

The Palestinians were stranded for three days on ferries on the Egyptian coast after sailing on Friday from Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba. On Monday, passengers from one of the ferries were on a bus to the Egyptian city of Arish, without clarity on which crossing they will use to go back to Gaza. The second ferry was still being held in the Red Sea.

The pilgrims wanted to go home through the Rafah border crossing point, but Egypt authorities insisted they use Aouja which is controlled by Israel. Egyptian officials decided to move them to temporary camps outside the Mediterranean city of el-Arish. When a first group of about half of them arrived, they refused to leave the buses and demanded to be allowed to go back to Gaza at once.

Coordination and partnerships

The Governorate of North Sinai has arranged temporary shelters accommodating around 2,500 pilgrims in youth clubs and similar facilities. A task force was created, and is coordinating the humanitarian assistance with key partners.

The Egyptian RCS Secretary General, Prof Dr. Mamdouh Gabr, is in charge of the operation and is maintaining contacts with key United Nations (UN) agencies and international partners. The National Society is benefiting from a solid reputation and is seen as a strong, valuable and reliable partner.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Egyptian RCS Branch in Arish was immediately involved in the humanitarian assistance coordinated by the Governorate of North Sinai. Following the first assessments made by the volunteers, the National Society deployed from their own stocks 3,000 blankets, 200 mattresses and 200 pillows. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Office in Cairo has also contributed to the procurement of 500 pillows, mattresses and hygiene kits. The International Federation's North Africa Regional Office is in regular contact with the Egyptian RCS and ICRC offices.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: 2,600 Palestinian pilgrims who arrived in the Red Sea port of Nuweiba after completing the pilgrimage to Mecca will be assisted. Food and non-food relief items – including meals, mattresses, pillows and hygiene kits – will be provided to the beneficiaries.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Meals, 1,500 mattresses and 1,500 pillows are distributed to the beneficiaries, according to the assessment and selection criteria that identified actual needs.

Activities planned at Headquarters (Relief and Logistics Department) and Branch level (Arish Branch):

- Monitor the existing situation and conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of diseases of the stranded beneficiaries in Arish has been reduced through the provision of adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion for an estimated one or two weeks.

Activities planned by Egyptian RCS volunteers in Arish:

- Assess the existing coverage with a view of ensuring availability of an adequate water and sanitation supply.
- Provide appropriate hygiene kits for 2,000 beneficiaries in the temporary emergency shelter.
- Conduct training/information programmes for Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries, particularly in regional hygiene promotion.

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

Budget Summary

Item	Total Costs (CHF)
Relief items	65,000
Mattresses (1,500)	52,000
Pillows (1,500)	9,000
Hygiene kits (2,000)	4,000
Food items	75,250
Meals for two weeks for 2,500 people	75,250
Program Management Support (6.5%)	9,750
Total CHF	150,000