



PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY, LEBANON: REFUGEES IN NAHR AL- BARED CAMP

*Final Report for
DREF Bulletin no.
MDRPS002
25 September
2007*

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

Period covered by this Final Report: 30 May to 31 August, 2007.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 67,597 (USD 55,164 or EUR 41,064) allocated from the Federation's DREF on 29 May 2007 to respond to the needs of this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.
- This operation was expected to be implemented in three months, and completed by the end of August 2007. In line with Federation reporting standards, the DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) was due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 30 November, 2007).

The International Federation undertakes activities that 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.

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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>

Background and summary

On 20 May 2007, clashes erupted between the Lebanese armed forces and an armed group inside the Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr Al-Bared in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli, where the fighting has continued throughout the last three months. According to official statements from the Lebanese Government, the conflict was coming to an end as this report is being written in the early days of September. Around 40,000 Palestinian refugees were caught in the middle of the fighting, and for days were not able to move out of the conflict area. There were a lot of casualties and wounded people, among them a number of civilians. The vast majority of the refugees were able to move out of the camp in the days that followed, to search for refuge inside Beddawi camp, the nearby Palestinian refugee camp outside Tripoli.

Coordination



The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement team in Tripoli, with representatives from Palestine Red Crescent Society and Lebanese Red Cross

The coordination and collaboration between the Palestine Red Crescent Society Lebanon branch (PRCS/L), the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation in this operation was of high quality and to the benefit of all parties, showing the dedication to applying the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and having the goals of the Global Agenda as guiding tools.

With reference to the understanding within the Movement, the PRCS/L provides humanitarian services, in particular secondary health care, to the Palestinian refugees in the country. The PRCS/L ambulances, salvage/rescue and relief teams have been working inside the Palestinian refugee camps of Naher Al-Bared and Beddawi, providing ambulance services, medical services, including first aid, and equipment. The PRCS/L has been evacuating injured patients, civilians

and individuals with special needs to the entrance of the camp where the LRC and the ICRC are the cooperating partners.

The LRC and the ICRC have been coordinating with the Lebanese authorities regarding safe passage for aid and relief teams. In addition these two partners, together with PRCS/L, have been taking care of the coordination of donations coming through the Movement from other partners.

All the Movement partners operating in the area have been arranging internal meetings on a regular basis, and holding meetings to share information, experience, plans and ideas with national and international organizations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in the area to meet the humanitarian needs during this crisis.

Analysis of the operation – achievements and impact

Palestine Red Crescent Society activities

From the very first day of this operation around 70 PRCS/L volunteers in the Tripoli area, and some from other parts of the country, were actively involved in different humanitarian activities to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian refugees in the Nahr Al-Bared camp, and of those being evacuated to the Beddawi camp. At central level in Beirut, an operations room was set up for coordination purposes, and to respond quickly to the situation and the workload at any time by providing health, humanitarian aid and relief services based on the needs at the time.



PRCS/L volunteers are helping a sick woman from Nahr Al-Bared seeking treatment at PRCS/ Safad hospital

Among the most urgent was to provide health care services to wounded and sick people inside the camp, and to help those who decided to leave the area by providing an escort to the entrance gate, where the LRC would take over. Food and clothes, and other non-food items have been distributed to families. Elderly and disabled people and children have received hygiene kits. To the extent possible, the PRCS/L has helped in finding temporary shelter for families, and students have been provided with rooms for studying.

At the management level there has been close coordination and good cooperation throughout the crisis with local and central authorities as well as with other stakeholders. The PRCS/L secretary general in Lebanon was invited by the Prime Minister of Lebanon to all coordination meetings arranged, and confidence towards the society has improved significantly.

In Nahr Al-Bared camp

As the PRCS clinic in Naher Al-Bared camp was not accessible due to the military actions, a new primary health care clinic was established in the basement of the mosque in the Nahr Al-Bared camp, and has been run by the PRCS/L health personnel from the same camp treating light injuries, while more serious cases have been referred to Safad hospital in Beddawi refugee camp. The PRCS/L ambulance personnel have been providing first aid services and transportation out of the camp for people in need of health services, or simply being evacuated out of the conflict area for safety reasons. By using the ambulances the PRCS/L was also able to distribute necessary medicine and medical supplies to the health facility in Nahr Al-Bared camp as long as it was working.

In Beddawi camp

A tent was put up by the PRCS/L in the Beddawi camp for meetings and assigning volunteers to their tasks. There has also been a tent for providing first aid close to the schools, where new refugees were provided with temporary shelter. Due to the huge needs for health care services, the PRCS/L has been running four new clinics; two in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) schools inside the Beddawi camp, and two in the public schools outside the camp provided by the Lebanese authorities as temporary shelter for hundreds of people. The PRCS/L has been working inside schools and kindergartens, providing necessary help to elderly and sick people in these overcrowded areas. Patients were transported to clinics and/or to the PRCS/L Safad hospital, where volunteers have been supporting the medical personnel. New refugees to the Beddawi camp were receiving urgently needed medical management and medication. The PRCS/L and its volunteers have been working in close coordination with the LRC, the ICRC and the International Federation, escorting people out of Nahr Al-Bared camp and into Beddawi, where the PRCS/L was ready to direct them to their temporary shelter.

In the camp the PRCS/L has been carrying out health education, with particular focus on the importance of good personal hygiene, terminating contagious factors (lice, chicken pox, tuberculosis), and the specific health problems associated with smoking. PRCS volunteers, together with UNRWA and the United Nations Children's Fund

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(UNICEF), have been distributing food and water, mattresses and bed sheets, as well as aid and sweets for the children. Some support was also given in coordination with other organizations provided to help Brevet and Baccalaureate students.

The PRCS/L started an awareness campaign with UNICEF on lactation management and the importance of breast feeding, as mothers and babies are especially vulnerable in such traumatic situations. The number of participants reached 1,298 women, with the focus of the work being mainly on mothers who had stopped breast feeding in favour of bottle feeding, due either to their milk production being affected by psychological distress and an unbalanced diet or because of lack of privacy. Work was also conducted with pregnant women.

As a consequence of the intense fighting in and around the Nahr Al-Bared refugee camp, people were experiencing problems with unexploded ordnances around in the area. Hence the PRCS/L together with MAG, one of its partners, was undertaking awareness campaigns about what such weapons might look like and what to do in case of discovering it.

In the middle of this crisis, with the Beddawi camp being totally overcrowded, there was an urgent need for youth and children to be encouraged and motivated to start some positive activities. Therefore, the PRCS/L ran a summer camp for six days within the Beddawi camp grounds for 500 children aged between 6-12 years, raising their awareness about volunteerism under the title of *Young Volunteer*. For two days a psychological support workshop for 50 children aged 12-14 years was conducted in cooperation with a humanitarian NGO under the name “Blue Mission”. The PRCS/L also ran a four-day community based first aid (CBFA) workshop in cooperation with the International Federation, and with the support from the Norwegian Red Cross for 20 volunteers in addition to three staff and volunteers of Safad hospital.

The PRCS/L also ran a temporary mobile health care clinic, providing health services to Palestinian refugees displaced to Al-Mina’.

Safad hospital

Due to the overwhelming needs for secondary health care services, the capacity at Safad hospital was increased by five beds, from 28 to 33. With the need for health care services far beyond normal, and with a shortage of qualified staff, all the hospital staff has for most of these critical months been following a 12 hours roster. Health personnel were also coming from other PRCS hospitals and clinics in Lebanon to help their colleagues at this difficult time.

A field medical point was set up inside the Beddawi camp as a coordinated joint initiative between the PRCS/L and the Qatari Red Crescent Society. Agreement was reached that the PRCS/L should provide health personnel - doctors and nurses - while the Qatari Red Crescent provided dermatologists, a psychology therapist, and a paediatrician, to decrease the pressure on the Safad hospital, which has been receiving urgent and emergency cases. This medical point was taken over by PRCS/L upon the Qatari Red Crescent’s decision to leave the camp and hand over the full responsibility of the project to PRCS/L.

Targeted activities of the Safad hospital due to the Nahr Al-Bared crisis started on 20 May, and have continued for the last three months, until the writing of this report, and will continue with own resources as long as there are special needs.

Distribution/sex/age

	Medical consultations	Normal Delivery	Miscarriage	Hospital admissions	Surgical operations	Out patient consultations
Male	6,043			516	202	12,829
Female	5,505	175	29	474	102	12,870
Children	7,888			503	104	16,943
TOTAL	19,436	175	29	1,493	408	42,642

Distribution/speciality

Emergency Department	Surgical Department	Medical Consultations	Internal Medicines	Pediatric Department	OBS/GYNA ¹ clinic	Delivery department	
16,973	473	17,971	417	353	1,465	223	
Intensive Care unit	No. of Operations	Clinics in schools	Mobile clinic/AL Minieh	Ambulance missions/ Naher Albarid camp	With trucks relief items missions	Evacuated persons	No. of Corpses
32	396	24,070	1,598	946	144	1,303	11

The objectives of the PRCS/L in this crisis have been to respond effectively and quickly to the needs of the refugees from Nahr Al-Bared camp displaced to Beddawi, and other neighbouring or remote areas, and to the population remaining inside the Nahr Al-Bared camp. Different possible scenarios, approaches and measures were explored initiating quick communication with partners and potential donors to bridge the needs for resources. Several partners from within, as well as many from outside the Movement responded to the crisis and the urgent needs with cash and/or in kind donations.

In particular the DREF contribution from the International Federation came at a critical time of the operation, before other partners were able to respond to the mounting needs. The quick and generous support from so many old and new partners has been very important, not only because it was desperately needed, but also because it is the first time in many years that the Palestinian refugees and the PRCS/L in Lebanon experienced such a huge flow of people in need of direct attention in all aspects of life: housing, food, clothes, hygiene items, emergency services and medical care, including psychological support.

Approximate number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to the Nahr Al-Bared crisis

Category / area	Beirut	Saida	Tyre	Bekaa	North	TOTAL
Families	420	223	185	99	5,146	6,073
Persons	2,211	1,039	938	465	26,872	31,525
Children	206	105	64	90	2,971	3,436
Disabled	29	14	7	1	64	115

Items purchased and procurement processes

For every item purchased, a minimum of three sealed offers were submitted by companies in Lebanon. The best offer was selected by the purchase department in cooperation with the respective technical department, based on quality, price, reputation for reliable delivery and the delivery date, and down payments or full payments were made.

Portable X-ray machine

The new portable X-ray machine, bought to replace the old one that regularly required major maintenance work, allows the hospital staff to serve the population more efficiently until a new main X-ray machine is purchased. The portable machine will also continue to be used for very basic X-rays, in particular during surgery in the operating theatre, and for patients of the hospital unable to move to the X-ray department. The purchase agreement was signed on 7 July, and it will be delivered to the PRCS/L by the end of September 2007. The purchase price is USD 22,500 with 50 per cent down payment and 50 per cent final payment.

¹ Obstetric & Gynaecology Clinic

Medical appliances

These are disposable items used while nursing and treating patients in wards and in the operating theatre.

Chest bottles and tubes

Chest bottles and tubes were to be used as urgent life saving measures in cases of thoracic injuries that were expected during the crisis. Along with other medical appliances, they were distributed to the five PRCS hospitals receiving people from the Nahr Al-Bared refugee camp. The total cost was USD 3,170.

Laboratory supplies

Additional kits for laboratory tests were needed to be able to carry out diagnostic procedures and different blood tests on different machines. They were purchased for the total price of USD 7,373.

Spectrophotometer and electrolyte analyser

These are machines used in laboratories for testing blood chemistry and blood electrolytes. Since there are families from Nahr Al-Bared refugee camp displaced in cities outside the Tripoli area a spectrophotometer was needed at the Hamshari hospital in Saida. Being the PRCS/L referral hospital, it has to be able to respond to such needs, but also whenever patients from other areas are transferred to the hospital for further treatment. Both machines were delivered for USD 3,400 and USD 4,675 respectively.

Training using the spectrophotometer and electrolyte analyser was conducted for the seven laboratory technicians by the provider free of charge as part of the delivery terms. Training on using the X-ray machine will be done when the machine is delivered.

Chronic disease medications

When people were leaving their houses in the Nahr Al-Bared camp under extreme circumstances and heavy bombardment, they also had to leave behind most of their belongings. Many were not able to bring with them even their important medication. Since the PRCS/L under normal circumstances cannot respond to such huge and important needs to minimize health problems for those on chronic disease medications, and in order not to jeopardize their medical conditions, the list of medicines originally presented had to be updated following a careful consideration of what donations had been received from other partners. On the basis of that revised list, medicines were purchased and distributed to the five PRCS hospitals receiving people from the Nahr Al-Bared camp. The cost of these medicines was USD 8,130



Hygiene kits distributed to the refugees were all equipped with the PRCS logo

Hygiene kits

More than 30,000 IDPs were living under overcrowded conditions in schools, with insufficient bathrooms and showers. This has resulted in deteriorating personal hygiene and the spread of skin diseases, such as scabies. Many organizations have responded by providing hygiene kits and cleaning materials, although this support has not been enough to cover the needs. The very bad economic situation of the IDPs means there is an imperative need to assist them with more than only a one-time distribution.

Therefore 409 hygiene kits with PRCS logo were purchased from the DREF budget. This lot, which was supplemented with an additional 53 kits donated free of charge by the dealer, was distributed to the displaced families from Naher Al-Bared in Tripoli and Beirut. The total price for these hygiene kits, which contain a comb,

a hair brush, shampoo, soap, a towel, ear swabs, tooth paste and brush, wet wipes and a body sponge, was USD 2,985. Also donations from other PRCS/L partners were added to this sum to be able to cover a greater part of the needs of the poor families.

Procurement procedures

Procurement procedures followed by the PRCS/L are generally similar to those of the International Federation, with not less than three offers required and a committee opening the envelopes and deciding on the supplier based on quality, price and time taken to deliver.

Delivery Procedures

All purchased items were delivered by selected companies to the PRCS/L general store at the Hamshari hospital compound in Saida city, with a delivery note and bill. The general store examined the specifications of the items and the delivered goods, registered them and sent a copy of the inventory receipt attached to the bill to the finance department for payment, while another copy was signed by the receiving hospital/department and kept at the general stores.

Impact

The impact of the DREF allocation is clear in terms of the PRCS/L being able to provide medical services to the refugees from its present stock, knowing that they have received funds for replenishment. However, all the procurement processes have been completed and all items except for the X-ray machine have been received.

Apart from improving the working environment for the hospital staff, ensuring better services are provided and a greater number of patients treated, more time is still needed to be able to measure the overall impact in terms of an improvement of the daily life of the Palestinian refugees, so heavily affected by the Nahr Al-Bared conflict. However, it is obvious that a large number of people in need have benefited from this, and other, generous donations.

[Final financial report below; Click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRPS002 - PALESTINE - REFUGEES NAHR AL-BARED CAMP

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/05-2007/08
Budget Timeframe	2007/05-2007/08
Appeal	MDRPS002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		67,597				67,597
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		67,597				67,597
C6. Other Income		67,597				67,597
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		67,597				67,597
D. Total Funding = B + C		67,597				67,597

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		67,597				67,597
E. Expenditure		-67,597				-67,597
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		67,597					67,597	
Federation Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies	63,203		63,203				63,203	0
Total Federation Contributions & Tr	63,203		63,203				63,203	0
Program Support								
Program Support	4,394		4,394				4,394	0
Total Program Support	4,394		4,394				4,394	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	67,597		67,597				67,597	0
VARIANCE (C - D)			0				0	