

DREF 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

TUNISIA: FLASH FLOODS

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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 DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 105,000 (USD 88,975 or EUR 62,630) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be completed by 31 December, 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 March, 2008). Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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 current situation



During 13-15 October 2007, several regions of northern and eastern Tunisia were affected by torrential rains. 184 mm of rainfall was recorded in some regions in 10 hours time and on average 108 mm in the province of Tunis. The flash floods occurred during the long weekend of the Aid, therefore most of the Tunisian population was either on holidays, traveling, or meeting with their families.

As of today, 13 people were killed and 3 are missing. Houses were destroyed, personal belongings flooded, cars swept away, roads cut, and train services interrupted. In addition, several power cuts occurred in Tunis and other provinces. In poor neighborhoods, hundreds of families had to be evacuated. According to the National Meteorological Institute, storms and rains are expected to continue during the coming week.

Below are tables indicating the figures registered in a couple of hours by the pluviometer in the most affected governorates of Tunis, which are not far from the Tunisian capital.

Ariana	mm of Rainfall
Ariana	90
Kalaât Landlous	21
Sidi Thabet	66
Jebel Ammar	70
Raoued	76
Cherfech	56
Jebel Nahli	95

Manouba	mm of Rainfall
Manouba	99
Jedaïda	29
Mornaguia	126
Tébourba	30
Chaouat	16
Borj El Amri	25
El-Battan	37

Tunis	mm of Rainfall
Tunis-Carthage	93
Goulette	184
Bardo	75
Sidi Bou Saïd	77



Due to the flash floods, cars have been swept away

In the region of Sabbalat Ben Ammar, 30 kms (18 miles) northwest to Bizerte, which is mostly an agricultural region, the river of Ammar flooded from its natural course and water came from several sides of the mountains of Ennahli, Ammar, and Abbas. This led to an erosion and from the national road number 8, where several vehicles were circulating, almost 30 cars and their passengers were stormed into the river. Eye witnesses reported that at this part of the road a muddied vague of 3 meters height had been seen.

The national task force was created on 13 October and the national disaster plan was immediately activated taking into consideration the severity of floods, the weather forecast and the number of regions affected. All

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governorates were put on alert and received instructions to mobilize their relief teams. In addition, civil defence was active in rescue, evacuation, and water pumping. Emergency mechanisms were deployed and special funds were allocated for the operation. It is important to note that in this period of religious holidays (end of Ramadan, Eid El Fitr) people are also distributing food and providing donations.

In addition, the army logistics and civilian protection teams were deployed to the field. They were assisted with technical support provided by the agricultural sector in order to rescue the victims and clear up the roads.

Immediately after the flash floods, the national authorities created a special joint disaster and search commission to assist the victims and search for the missing bodies. Special diving forces from the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior were deployed. This special joint commission is composed by the Civil Defence, Ministry of Agriculture, National Defence, National Guard and Police. These Special Forces are still working in order to find the missing people and the location of Sabalat Ammar is still not accessible to the public.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Crescent committees, as an auxiliary to the public authorities and active player within the national disaster plan, were immediately contacted by the local governorates. Volunteers were mobilized to support the civil defense in the evacuation of the families and their resettlement in schools, stadiums or other public places.

Following consultation within the National Task Force, the Tunisian Red Crescent focussed its work on assisting the victims and providing them with psychological support, rather than involving in search and rescue. 70 volunteers from the affected regions have been deployed by the Tunisian Red Crescent to support in assisting the community, transporting and relocating the victims, providing psychological support and distributing food and non food items.

Since the very beginning of the disaster, the Tunisian Red Crescent and the International Federation's Regional Representation for North Africa was in close contact in order to monitor the situation and assist the National Society in its action. An alert report was posted on the Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) website on 14 October.

The local representatives of the Tunisian Red Crescent were quickly present on the affected sites with the local authorities and have reported their initial assessments to the headquarters. According to the Tunisian Red Crescent Secretary General, three governorates have been severely affected.

Governorates	Most affected localities	Number of affected families
Ariana	Mnihla, Borj, Nahli, Sabelet Ammar	200
Manouba	Mornaguia, Douar Hicher, Manouba	720
Tunis	Bab Souika, Ettadhamen and Hrairia	100

From the abovementioned governorates, at this initial stage, the Tunisian Red Crescent Society will assist 500 of the most vulnerable families - 200 in Ariana, 200 in Manouba and 100 in Tunis - and provide them with relief items such as mattresses, blankets, food parcels and beds.

As immediate needs, clothes were also identified as a priority. Thanks to the annual Finnish Red Cross in kind donation received recently, the Tunisian Red Crescent has been able to immediately assist the victims in meeting these needs. The National Society is planning to distribute more clothes from its own stocks during the upcoming days. The Finnish Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross have indicated their intention to replenish these stocks in order to have them available for possible future small scale disasters. The National Solidarity Fund (Fonds 2626) has also announced an additional support to the victims in terms of relief items.

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CHF 105,000 has been allocated from the International Federation's DREF to cover the immediate needs of this operation. Contacts were made with the suppliers and the Regional Representation will support the National Society headquarters in the procurement of selected items, in addition to the monitoring and reporting phases of this operation. Items will be delivered by the suppliers to the concerned governorates, according to the list of beneficiaries and distribution plans prepared by local Red Crescent committees and local authorities. In addition, field visits are planned by the Regional Representation.

Following the successful DREF operation in July (Tozeur Floods), the National Society has increased its confidence in using and managing DREF mechanisms. The immediate release of funds is very instrumental in raising the profile of the National Society in the community, at the authorities' level and helps the local Red Crescent committees to position themselves in the field of disaster management as reliable partners. So far the National Society volunteers were mainly used as resources by the local authority with reduced visibility and little interaction.

In order to benefit from this experience, the Regional Representation plans to organize a debriefing workshop with the participation of the Tunisian Red Crescent coordinators and volunteers involved in the operation, in order to evaluate the operation, and reflect on the lessons learnt and future steps to be taken.

Budget Summary

Items	Total Costs (CHF)
Supplies	86,000
1,000 blankets	8,000
1,000 mattresses	35,000
1,000 food parcels (cereal, sugar, milk, canned goods, oil)	43,000
Camp Beds	6,000
200 camp beds	6,000
Transport	1,000
Fuel and vehicle rental (distribution)	1,000
Travel and Administration	5,175
General administration, workshop, volunteers' management, monitoring and evaluation	5,175
Program Management Support (6.5%)	6,825
Total	105,000

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