

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Egypt: Cairo Rockslides

DREF operation n° MDREG007  
GLIDE n° LS-2008-000153-EGY  
19 April 2009

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the International Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross 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.

**Summary:** CHF 249,198 (USD 218,000 or EUR 164,760) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 10 September 2008 to support the Egyptian Red Crescent (Egyptian RC) in delivering assistance to some 500 families (3,000 beneficiaries).

This relief emergency operation was implemented as planned by the Egyptian RC. Families at risk in the neighbourhood of the rockslides as well as nearby vulnerable areas have been gradually evacuated to the new apartments in different locations (Doweika Nahda City, 6th of October governorate, etc.) where National Society volunteers and staff were present to assist and support them during the difficulties of resettlement.

In the emergency phase, the number of affected families whose houses were destroyed and thus were forced to move to the new apartments in Doweika was 166. 731 families whose houses were partially affected were also accommodating in the same area. Egyptian RC was taking care of these groups, equal to 3,713 beneficiaries.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)



Communities searching and rescuing relatives in the early hours following the rockslides

## The situation

At least eight gigantic boulders, many of the size of small houses, fell onto the impoverished Manshiyet Nasser Shantytown on the outskirts of Cairo on 6 September 2008. The devastating rockslide left 98 dead and 72 injured; and 100 to 150 families lost their houses, in addition to many more houses declared at risks and having to be evacuated.

Due to the complexity of the disaster, the difficulty for heavy machinery and equipment to access the site, and to avoid hampering rescue operations, the civil defense had to cut a railway line in order to gain access to the site with the fear that more rocks might slide down the face of the cliff. Families were evacuated to a tented camp in nearby Al-Fustat district erected by the army, while other families were taken to another camp erected and managed by the Egyptian RC in Manshiyet Nasser.



The Egyptian RC, in favor of the families of the victims, set and implemented condolence tents

The government announced the end of the rescue operations in Doweika on 16 September, ten days after the disaster. Tempers flared as family members began digging themselves to find the missing ones. The government promised to provide housing for those left homeless and compensation for families of the victims.

A full review of housing settlements built through the country without construction permits was announced by the prime minister, as well as his creation of a commission to study the area and identify houses most at risk to further landslides. The Cairo governorate established a special technical committee to identify the lodgings at risk around Doweika area at the bottom of Mokattam hill. The committee decided to evacuate gradually around 5,000 families to resettlement areas in Doweika, in 6th of October governorate and other places.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Emergency phase

More than 200 volunteers were mobilized during the emergency phase since the very first hours of the disaster, conducting needs assessment, providing basic first aid and psychosocial support to the communities in shock. The operation was conducted in close collaboration with the local authorities. The Egyptian RC president dedicated considerable time to meeting with the key actors on successful fundraising efforts. 95% of the DREF budget was used for the procurement, transport and distribution of relief supplies (tents, blankets, clothes, kitchen sets, mats, mattresses, etc.) as well as food items (ready meals). However, Egyptian RC work did not stop with the emergency phase and continued during the rehabilitation phase with large support from the local authorities.

### Rehabilitation phase

A joint committee of governmental authorities and the Egyptian RC agreed that the National Society volunteers and staff would continue supporting the families transferred to the new apartments in Doweika. The Egyptian RC maintained the 24 hours services in Doweika area as well as support services to families at risk during their evacuation to other places. In addition, apartment buildings were donated by Sawiris Foundation to accommodate the newly evacuated families in the 6<sup>th</sup> of October governorate. However, some problems were faced as the families preferred resettlement in Doweika; the places of work and schools were far away; and the apartments of 6th of October governorate were small.

To solve these problems, public transportation means from 6th of October to Doweika and via versa were arranged by the governmental authorities; children were readmitted in nearby schools at 6th of October governorate and three minibuses were arranged to transport the children to their schools; and two adjacent apartments were connected to accommodate larger families.

During the rehabilitation phase, the number of families resettled in the new location of Doweika was 1,739 families (7,462 beneficiaries); the number of families resettled in the new location of 6th of October governorate was 127 families (around 550 beneficiaries); and the number of families resettled in the new location in Nahda City was 32 families (around 140 beneficiaries).

Cairo governorate provided four apartments in Doweika area to be used as a permanent office for the Egyptian RC as well as storage place for the National Society's relief materials. The Egyptian RC is coordinating with the governmental authorities and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), mainly integrated care society, to conduct a rehabilitation project in Doweika area. This project will follow the steps

and procedures that the Egyptian RC implemented in Nahda city and Zeinhom projects. The Egyptian RC is also cooperating with Cairo governorate, Ministry of Health and Population, and Ministry of Social Solidarity to establish a center for family health and to extend the existing social support buildings.

## Progress towards objectives

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: The specific quantity and quality of goods are distributed to the beneficiaries, according to the assessment and selection criteria that identified actual needs and vulnerable groups.**

#### Activities planned:

- Re-evaluate the needs assessment conducted by the volunteers based on the latest developments.
- Re-locate the families based on the registration of the families in the temporary camp and distribute the food on the basis of the lists provided by the authorities.
- Replenish the National Society stocks as the tents, blankets, ground mats and mattress provided are not sufficient to host the new families.
- Distribute meals once a day during the Ramadan period.
- Start the relocation settlement and distribute basic items to the families (as mentioned in the DREF operation report, the support provided for the temporary camps was planned maximum for seven to 10 days in agreement with the local authorities).

#### Achievements:

Egyptian RC volunteers were involved in registering the donations provided to the families. Questionnaires were prepared for the families to list their needs, and volunteers were trained for supporting the families in filling the form, collecting the data, registering other donors' contributions and in analyzing the data. Based on this information, the basic relief package was determined. The National Society volunteers assembled these packages and distributions were organized at the temporary warehouse for the families.

The analysis of the collected data from the questionnaires provided clearer information on the population targeted, which was useful to better address their specific needs. According to the results:

- 13 % of the families were headed by women who are breadwinners for their families.
- The number of elderly (above 65 years) people are 187.
- 1,304 pupils and students were studying in different education stages:
  - Primary education (6 – 14 years): 1,133 pupils
  - Secondary education (15 – 17 years): 92 pupils
  - High education (18 – 21 years): 79 students
- 738 persons (16.3%) have obtained high degree education.
- Primary education dropouts stands at 9.5%.
- Illiteracy rate stands at 44.4%.

Relief items were purchased and distributed to the affected families in Doweika according to the needs identified, including ready-made meals, basic furniture and materials (mattresses, pillows, floor mats, towel, chairs, kitchen sets, gas stoves, etc.) and clothes.

Protective clothes and material were procured and provided to Egyptian RC volunteers and staff during the operation. During the rehabilitation phase, the National Society continued to respond to the new needs identified for the communities at the resettlement phase. The distributions of basic living relief items were complemented by other resources and donations mobilized locally from other donors (including 500 food packages donated by the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent).

Egyptian RC volunteers and staff were also receiving in kind donations and storing them in the several Egyptian RC warehouses (Zeinhom and Al Galaa warehouses) for further distribution.

The below table summaries the basic items distributed to the affected families:

Item	Quantity
Matresses	365
Pillows	317
Pillow cases	317
Bed sheets	365
Floor mats	166
Plastic cups	200
Cover sheets	193
Towels	250
Dining tables	150
Gas stoves	141
Chairs	540
Kitchen equipment	166
Plastic plates	150

## Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

**Objective: Safe water and adequate sanitation is provided for two weeks to the beneficiaries in the temporary camps.**

### Activities planned:

- With the support of local authorities and the army, provide safe water to 300 families during the period the systems are insufficient in the temporary camp.
- Provide potable water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion (basic hygiene kits) to 300 families.
- Reconstitute relief stocks of Egyptian RC.

### Achievements:

Except from providing drinkable water (water bottles distributed with the meals) in the emergency phase, the National Society, due to inadequate equipment, was not really involved in water sanitation activities. These activities were mainly carried out by civil defense.

During the emergency phase, the Egyptian RC was coordinating health activities closely with the health authorities, and supporting the Ministry of Health and the local population in their vaccination programmes in order to prevent infectious diseases. The governorate sprayed pesticides on the site due to the infestation of insects attracted by the decaying bodies beneath the rubble. The National Society volunteers, entering and exiting the site, were wearing facemasks as preventive measures.

Hygiene kits were procured and distributed to the affected families in the temporary camps in the Manshiyet shantytown. New hygiene sets were also distributed at the time of the relocation of the families in the new apartments.

## Psycho-social Support

**Objective: Psycho-social support is provided to affected families.**

### Activities planned:

- Establish a psycho-social support cell in the temporary camp in order to provide the necessary support to the affected people, to their families and to help them recover from the tragedy.
- Reinforce a restoring family links (RFL) unit on the site to support families looking for missing relatives or friends or to inform families living in other provinces and governorates.

### Achievements:

The main task of the volunteers during the emergency phase was to provide psycho-social support to the affected people on the site, within the psycho-social support cell established in the temporary camp and the central morgue. The support was directed to the people directly affected by the disaster but also to the families and neighbours who arrived on the site looking for their relatives and friends.

With the closure of the temporary camp and the end of the rescue work, the volunteers left the camp and the morgue. They continued to visit injured people in the hospital and concentrate their efforts to help the families to settle in their new apartments. Regarding the RFL activities, the volunteers have supported the

affected people to get back in contact with their families living in different governorates as well as to respond to queries on registered people who lost their lives.

## Conclusion

The climate on the site in which the staff and volunteers were operating was very tense, with residents of the shantytown being in shock, disbelief and emotions running high against authorities, accusing officials for being slow in their rescue work.

Other difficulties were met by the volunteers at the time of the resettlement with some people reluctant to leave their house and areas and to be resettled in new houses. The work of Egyptian RC volunteers was very precious to support, prepare and accompany the families in this resettlement phase. Specific attention was provided to the women in helping them to re-create their home with a minimum of living conditions and ensuring the quick re-integration of the kids in the school programme to overcome the stress of the disaster and the decrease in their marks (house and environment). Special psycho-social support sessions were provided to the kids at school.

The National Society's assistance was appreciated both from the local authorities and the vulnerable communities supported by the volunteers at several levels. The Egyptian RC volunteers could also mediate well within this difficult situation between an angry and shocked population and the authorities through supporting and accompanying the communities and responding to their needs. The Egyptian RC president and board members have been very active to fundraise for this tragedy and to support the resource mobilization efforts as to better help the affected communities in their new environment.

The DREF allocation has allowed a quick and effective response of the National Society. The visibility and quality of the assistance have reinforced the image of the Egyptian RC as an essential actor for the emergency operation. The operation was managed in time, according to the plans, except for the capacity building component as most of the funds were used for the procurement of relief items and their transport.

Egyptian RC supported effectively the emergency and rehabilitation phase, based on the learning from previous emergency operations. The questionnaire used for the communities to better understand their situation and needs was adapted from the recent vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) process undertaken by Egyptian RC in the H2P programme. In addition the National Society, through its own internal evaluation process, realized the weakness and the need to strengthen its response capacity within the clear tasks and responsibilities and the coordination with local authorities. One of the fields identified was water and sanitation. As a result, Egyptian RC prepared and submitted an application for the joint International Federation/International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Empress Shoken funds to acquire adequate material (mobile water sanitation unit).

Finally, building on its vast experience of working in the resettlement field (Zeinhom slums areas; Al Nahda), and through discussions with the local authorities, the Egyptian RC has decided to continue to support these communities of Doweika. The National Society is currently working on a multi-year comprehensive rehabilitation development project for the families in the new apartments in this area. The project plans to address a large community based risk reduction programme that will soon be shared with the North Africa regional office.

### 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

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**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDREG007 - Egypt - Cairo Rockslides

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/09-2008/11
Budget Timeframe	2008/09-2008/11
Appeal	MDREG007
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	249,198					249,198
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	249,198					249,198
<b>C5. Other Income</b>	249,198					249,198
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>	249,198					249,198
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	249,198					249,198
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	100%					100%

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>C. Income</b>	249,198					249,198
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-249,198					-249,198
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	0					0

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### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>249,198</b>					<b>249,198</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Shelter - Relief	24,150	26,961				26,961	-2,811	
Clothing & textiles	14,600	75,217				75,217	-60,617	
Food	50,000	86,274				86,274	-36,274	
Water & Sanitation	2,400						2,400	
Utensils & Tools	118,000	30,935				30,935	87,065	
Other Supplies & Services		1,309				1,309	-1,309	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>209,150</b>	<b>220,695</b>				<b>220,695</b>	<b>-11,545</b>	
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.		7,703				7,703	-7,703	
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>		<b>7,703</b>				<b>7,703</b>	<b>-7,703</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Distribution & Monitoring		3,349				3,349	-3,349	
Transport & Vehicle Costs		1,840				1,840	-1,840	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>		<b>5,190</b>				<b>5,190</b>	<b>-5,190</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Staff	600						600	
National Society Staff	17,290	17,830				17,830	-540	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>17,890</b>	<b>17,830</b>				<b>17,830</b>	<b>60</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	2,000						2,000	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>2,000</b>						<b>2,000</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	3,300						3,300	
Office Costs	300	1,748				1,748	-1,448	
Financial Charges		-20,165				-20,165	20,165	
Other General Expenses	360						360	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>3,960</b>	<b>-18,417</b>				<b>-18,417</b>	<b>22,377</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	16,198	16,198				16,198	0	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>16,198</b>	<b>16,198</b>				<b>16,198</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>249,198</b>	<b>249,198</b>				<b>249,198</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>0</b>				<b>0</b>		