

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Palestine: Flash Floods

DREF operation n° MDRPS003
GLIDE n° FF-2008-000216-PSE
14 May 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 117,783 (USD 106,890 or EUR 78,078) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 9 November 2008 to support the Palestine Red Crescent Society (Palestine RC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,423 beneficiaries.

The operation was planned to enable the Palestine RC to ensure initial humanitarian response to the most vulnerable among the flood victims in Gaza. The DREF support focused on basic relief needs through the provision of relief items such as blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, and first aid kits.

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Beneficiaries received blankets from the Palestine Red Crescent Society's relief team.

The situation

From the early afternoon of 27 October 2008 and the following 36 hours, torrential rains hit the Gaza Strip, causing heavy floods in huge parts of this densely populated and poor area. After summer-long drought, the ground was not able to absorb the huge mass of water which washed away sand, dust, and garbage from streets; merged with sewage from underground reservoirs; and filled the ground floors of the homes with mud, garbage, and contaminated dirty water. Among the worst hit areas were where the poorest of the poor people in the Gaza Strip were located. In the northern part, dozens of houses were under water and mud. In the southern city of Khan Younis, where there was no functioning or very poor drainage and sewage systems, the dirty and contaminated water found its way through streets into homes and other buildings. One of the sewage treatment plants in the north of the Gaza Strip was filled up to the brink of its banks, creating fears that this sewage water may completely bury residential areas, like what happened the previous year with another dam bursting its banks, submerging a number of houses, and even drowning some people.

Coordination and partnerships



The Palestine RC and the ICRC assessed the situation together before starting the operation and worked closely throughout their response to the most affected people.

Out of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement components, only the Palestine RC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have permanent presence in Gaza Strip. Therefore, from the very beginning of the operation, there was a very close cooperation and coordination between the two. ICRC staff was together with the Palestine RC relief teams, taking part in the assessment process, mapping the destruction, preparing for the response, and providing logistical support to the National Society. The ICRC was also providing relief items such as tarpaulins, blankets, and hygiene items from its stocks.

Other coordination initiatives were those of the local municipalities, the governmental bodies, and the international organizations in the Gaza Strip. As the availability of stocks of humanitarian organizations were limited, the intervention of Palestine RC was even more crucial in alleviating the suffering of the people in the most affected areas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions

Objective: Palestine RC ensured timely response based on the priority needs of the beneficiaries and provided basic relief items according to the results of the initial assessment conducted by the National Society.

Activities planned

- Preposition relief supplies and human resources
- Procure, transport and distribute relief items (blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, first aid kits).
- Train volunteers on relief distribution
- Mobilise and equip volunteers
- Conduct monitoring and evaluation of the relief operation (including beneficiary satisfaction surveys and lessons learned for volunteers and National Society staff) and decide on next steps

Achievements

From its branches in Rafah, Khan Younis, Deir El Balah, Gaza City and Jabalya, the Palestine RC, within 12 hours from the start of the rainfall, was deploying staff and volunteers to carry out assessments and help the most affected families. Owing to having relief items in its stock in the different branches, the National Society was over the following days able to distribute family hygiene kits, blankets, tents, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, and other relief items to the worst affected families from the north to the south of the Gaza Strip. Staff and volunteers of the National Society were also able to provide help to the most vulnerable people by cleaning the flooded areas and erecting shelter to some of those families whose houses were destroyed. Volunteers were also working with opening sewage and drainage systems where available, and trying to reroute the biggest mass of water and mud which was floating around.

Several assessment teams from the Palestine RC were deployed to the most affected areas, registering the number of families and individuals whose homes and settlements were flooded and destroyed. Sick and poor people were given top priority and were the first ones receiving relief supplies, logistical support, and medical care for those in need. Throughout the relief operation, the Palestine RC deployed some 150 volunteers in the field, evacuating elderly, sick, and disabled people from the affected areas. The operation was successfully coordinated from the operational room at the Palestine RC Gaza City branch. Trainings were provided to a total of 90 volunteers with the focus being in particular on health problems, refreshment of first

aid knowledge, safety, and camp management. Floods of this magnitude is a rare experience in the Gaza Strip and therefore the training was very much appreciated, making those involved well prepared for providing relief and additional health care services. The training was also important in terms of teaching the Palestine RC staff and volunteers about the danger of water-born diseases and other possible health hazards related to floods for them to disseminate and teach the vulnerable people how to take necessary preventive steps.

Following the distribution of relief items from the available stocks at Palestine RC warehouses, the funds provided to the National Society through this DREF contribution was spent on purchasing goods from the local market, replenishing what was already distributed from the stocks of the National Society, as well as following up additional distribution to other beneficiaries. With Gaza Strip being under tight closure and strict import restrictions imposed for the last 18 months, not all items listed in the initial plan were available and prices were higher. In addition, getting quotations for tarpaulins turned out to be impossible due to lack of available stock at the suppliers and receiving it from outside was impossible due to lack of import permission. Hence, this money was used to purchase more blankets.



Palestine Red Crescent volunteers received relief items from suppliers in Gaza City to be distributed to the beneficiaries and to replenish the stocks of the National Society

For every item procured, minimum three sealed offers were submitted by companies in Gaza City. For the procurement process, a procurement committee from Palestine RC Gaza City branch, representing the administration, finance, and disaster management departments, was appointed. The committee selected the best offer based on the quality, price, reputation of the supplier for reliable delivery, delivery date, and down payments or full payments.

All purchased items were delivered to the Palestine RC main warehouse in Gaza City, with delivery notes and bills. After examining specifications of the items and the delivered goods, the warehouse management registered and accepted the items with a copy of the inventory receipt being sent to the finance department for payment.

Kind	Budget (CHF)	USD Equivalent Transferred to Palestine RC	Quantity	Price (USD)	Budget Variance
Human Resources and Training	10,925	9,267		5,805	3,462
Transport	1,725	1,463		2,486	-1,023
Communications	1,150	975		915	60
Monitoring	1,150	975		0	975
First Aid Kits	23,311	19,772	240	20,432	-660
Hygiene Kits	48,953	41,523	450	42,203	-680
Blankets	13,986	11,863	450	11,554	309
Additional Blankets (Instead of Tarpaulins)	8,927	7,572	390	10,014	-2,442
Programme Support Recovery (PSR)	7,656				
Total	117,783	93,410		93,409	1

Distribution



Palestine RC staff and volunteers registered the beneficiaries as part of the relief operation before handing over relief items as mostly needed.

As distribution of relief items and provision of help and services to victims of the floods started already on the day of the disaster, most of the new relief goods purchased in this operation were for the replenishment of the items in the main warehouse.

With funding from this DREF allocation, the Palestine RC was able to replenish the stock and 750 blankets were left in the Palestine RC main warehouse for future use. However, during the 23 days Israeli military offensive on Gaza Strip at the end of December 2008, the National Society made a distribution of some 450 blankets, 190 first aid kits, and another 300 hygiene kits from the remaining stocks of the DREF operation to people in desperate need. However, the Palestine RC Al-Quds hospital, the Gaza City branch and its administration building, and the nearby main warehouse were bombed by the Israeli forces, thus the remaining stock of relief items in this warehouse were

burned including the last 300 blankets from this DREF operation. In addition, all original financial documents and other files of the disaster management unit like those of other departments at the branch were destroyed and could not be restored from the totally burned buildings.

Distribution statistics

Affected Area	Number			Number of Relief Items Distributed			
	Volunteers	Families	People	First Aid Kits	Hygiene Kits	Blankets	Tarpaulins ¹
North Gaza	140	160	1,274	120	205	1,274	110
Middle Area	20	3	20	20	3	20	0
Khan Younis	120	146	1,093	100	166	1,100	100
Rafah	20	6	36	40	40	36	4
Total	300	315	2,423	280	414	2,430	214

Training

As part of this relief operation, the Palestine RC disaster management unit in Gaza City provided training sessions for new volunteers and refreshment courses for other volunteers and relief staff of the National Society. Relief distribution procedures, procurement procedures, camp management, assessment practices and data collection principles, first aid knowledge, together with the introduction of general RC/RC Fundamental Principles and historic background was part of this training. Teachers at these practical and theoretical training sessions have been from the Palestine RC management in Gaza City branch, and the trainings have been provided free of charge.

Conclusion

Impact of this DREF allocation is obvious in terms of Palestine RC Gaza Strip being able to provide emergency relief services to the thousands of Palestinian people, in particular including the many from the refugee camps in the north of Gaza City, in the middle of the Strip, and in the southern Rafah border area. It also made the National Society able to replenish its stock for further use. However, with the Gaza crisis over the year end, with disastrous consequences for the people and the Palestine RC, the National Society is left with no more relief items for future use and is forced to start again from scratch.

¹ Tarpaulins were not procured, but partly received from ICRC and partly from the Palestine RC stock in the warehouse.

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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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRPS003 - Palestine - Floods

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/11-2009/02
Budget Timeframe	2008/11-2009/02
Appeal	MDRPS003
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
A. Budget	117,783					117,783
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
Voluntary Income	117,783					117,783
C5. Other Income	117,783					117,783
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	117,783					117,783
D. Total Funding = B + C	117,783					117,783
Appeal Coverage	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. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	117,783					117,783
E. Expenditure	-117,783					-117,783
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

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	
BUDGET (C)	117,783	117,783					117,783	
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies	110,127	110,127				110,127	0	
Total Contributions & Transfers	110,127	110,127				110,127	0	
Programme Support								
Program Support	7,656	7,656				7,656	0	
Total Programme Support	7,656	7,656				7,656	0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	117,783	117,783				117,783	0	
VARIANCE (C - D)		0				0		