

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Egypt: Gaza humanitarian crisis

DREF operation n° MDREG008  
Update no. 1  
Glide n° CE-2009-000002-EGY  
23 January 2009

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.

**Period covered by this update: 10 January – 20 January 2009.**

**Summary:** a total of CHF 446,524 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The first allocation of CHF 346,524 was made on 10 January 2009, with a second allocation of CHF 100,000 on 20 January 2009 to provide additional support to the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS) for the deployment of staff for contingency planning and training, as well as supplementary warehousing capacity. Following the cease fire, it is expected that relief assistance will continue through Egypt at an increased pace in the coming weeks, which further justifies an increased logistics support to the Red Crescent.



**Palestinian Red Crescent and Egyptian medics meeting at the Rafah's border**

Implementation of this DREF operation is proceeding as planned with the procurement of equipment and relief supplies, and with the set up of the three operational rooms in El Arish, Rafah and Ouja cross border points. In addition, the ERCS has been supported by the Ministry of Communication to set up satellite lines for the operational rooms in Rafah and Al Arish. The ERCS is currently fully mobilized at both its headquarters and branch levels in El Arish to ensure efficient transport of emergency assistance in the form of food, relief, medical supplies and equipment through the Rafah and Ouja/KeremShalom crossing points. With the Federation's support, the ERCS has been upgrading its office and facilities in El Arish and Rafah. It also continues to facilitate the transport of seriously wounded people and their accompanying relatives from Gaza into Egypt through the Rafah Crossing Point to be treated at medical facilities in Egypt. ERCS volunteers are operating in three groups: a team loading and unloading at the border; another team visiting the wounded in hospitals; and the third team providing psychosocial support for relatives.

The Federation team is composed of the Head of the Regional Office, an emergency coordinator, delegated by the Norwegian Red Cross, and recently reinforced by the arrival of two logisticians. The Algerian Red Crescent DM coordinator is currently joining and supporting the team, following a short mission in Gaza (Shifa Hospital). The regional psycho social support coordinator is expected soon to

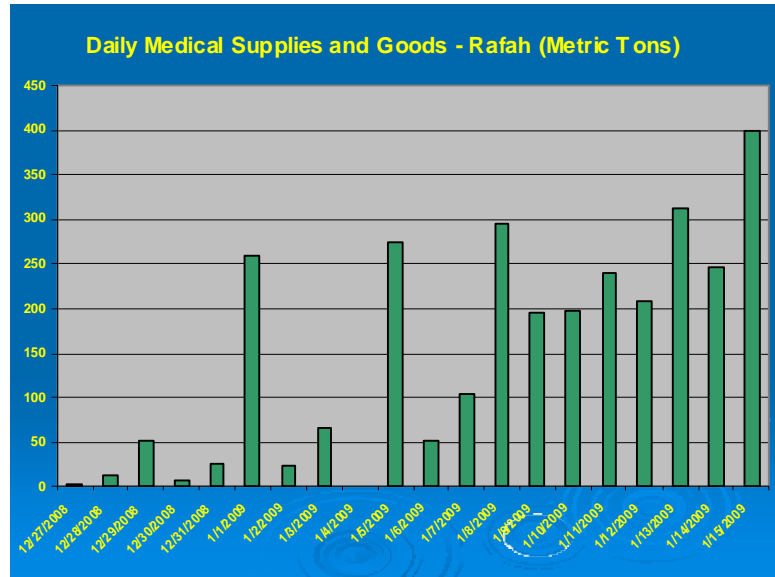
support the ERCS. Additional support is provided through the Federation's Zone Office (head of zone, DM coordinator, health and care coordinator). The ERCS and Federation are working closely and communicating often with the ICRC Cairo Delegation and concerned National Societies operating in Egypt (Qatari, Saudi, Emirati, Turkish, Malaysian, Kuwaiti Red Crescent. Mobilization of goods tables is available upon request. Contributions to fully or partially reimburse the Federation's DREF are strongly encouraged.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months (although the situation remains volatile at time of writing), and will therefore be completed by April 2009; a Final Report will be made available by 31 July 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

## The situation

Twenty two days of hostilities in Gaza have created a dire humanitarian situation. The UN reports<sup>1</sup> a death toll in Gaza of more than 1,300 with over 5,000 injured. On 17 January 2009 a unilateral cease fire was announced by Israel, followed shortly after by Hamas. The situation is fluid and volatile, and the truce remains fragile. Preparedness efforts will continue as planned, reinforcing ERCS readiness to intervene or respond in case of potential large population movements to Egypt.

Following the ceasefire, it is expected that the cross border points of Rafah, Ouja and Kerem Shalom will be fully operational and allow safe transport of relief assistance into Gaza. The volume of relief items transiting through Egypt is increasing each day. The ERCS is the lead agency for the facilitation and transport of assistance to Gaza. During the reporting period, and with the support of the Federation's emergency coordinator, the ERCS resources and capacities in the El Arish and Rafah branches were upgraded to allow a scale-up of assistance activities. The El Arish branch has been providing office and meeting space to PNS present in El Arish as well as OCHA, WFP and WHO agencies.



## Coordination and partnerships

A Coordination committee of ERCS, the International Federation and ICRC was formed on 9 January 2009. Upon an invitation from the Egyptian Red Crescent President, H.E. Madam Suzanne Mubarak, a meeting of the Movement components on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza was held in Cairo on 10 January 2009. The meeting was attended by the President of the Federation together with the Secretary General and representations from the MENA Zone and Geneva; the Vice-president of ICRC with support team from Geneva and the field; the Chairman of the Standing Commission, the Secretary General of the Arab RC/RC Organisation, the PRCS President, and the Secretary General of the ERCS together with two board members. The meeting addressed the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza and the support provided by the Movement to PRCS and to the people in Gaza. The meeting also discussed support to the ERCS and the Jordanian Red Crescent Society (JRCS) in their efforts to facilitate the transport and delivery of relief and medical supplies into Gaza through their respective countries. The issue of advocacy and the level of readiness and preparedness for such imminent emergencies before they occur was raised for further elaboration and discussion among the Movement components.

<sup>1</sup> OCHA Report January 16, 2009 (Source: Palestinian Ministry of Health), not including those treated for shock

A follow-up meeting was held on the next morning of 11 January 2009. The ICRC, the Federation, and the ERCS were present at this meeting. The meeting discussed in details the coordination among the various Movement stakeholders and the ways and means to provide the people in Gaza with the humanitarian assistance needed. The meeting agreed that the Federation will lead the support provided by the Movement to the ERCS, particularly facilitating the entry of relief supplies to Gaza. The issues of reporting, logistics and communications are being worked out in the field and will be shared with Geneva for clearance. The procedures for National Societies were finalized and sent by the ICRC to the MENA National Societies. The document outlines the procedures to be followed to support the PRCS in cooperation with ICRC, as well as contributions and support channelled through the ERCS and JRCs with the support of the Federation. A PNS meeting is to be hosted by the ICRC in the coming weeks.

Two coordination meetings with UN agencies were held by the ERCS under the lead of the ERCS President, Mrs Mubarak. On 10 January 2009, a coordination mechanism was created (the Emergency Committee for the Coordination of Assistance to Gaza, or ECCA), composed of the UN Agencies (OCHA, UNRWA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, WFP) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (PRCS, ICRC, International Federation). The second meeting was held on 17 January, and provided an opportunity to share an update on activities, discuss the situation in Gaza and recent developments as well as contingency planning developments.

Several Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are present in Egypt (Qatari, Saudi, Kuwaiti, Emirati, Turkish, and Malaysian Red Crescent). Most of the delegations are based at El Arish and operating bilaterally, procuring relief/medical items and conveying their large donations to the population of Gaza with the support of ERCS volunteers. A Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement coordination meeting was held on 18 January together with the ICRC. The main purpose of the meeting was to share information and coordinate the next steps. A second meeting was held on 22 January.

Coordination meetings are also held at UN levels as well at NGO level to share information and to review resources, capacities and needs. Those meetings are conducted in Cairo as well as in El Arish. Logistics and health coordination clusters have been established in El Arish. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs is on mission to the region to review the humanitarian needs in Gaza. A meeting with all humanitarian agencies is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 25 January 2009 to discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza, the current humanitarian support operations from Egypt, as well as to consider what additional support humanitarian agencies based in Egypt might be provided to Gaza. The ERCS President will also be chairing a Coordination meeting with the NGO's involved with humanitarian Assistance to Gaza on 25 January 2009.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

<b>Relief items sent to Gaza with ERCS Support since 27/12/08</b>	<b>Local resource mobilization</b>	<b>International mobilization</b>	<b>Total (some 92 planes and 2 ships)</b>
Medical supplies (equipment & drugs)	2,318 mt	1,786 mt	
Ambulances	42	79	
Food and NFI			4,839 mt
Field hospital		2	
Generators			7

## Progress towards objectives

The Federation has worked with the ERCS on a contingency plan which is being implemented and translated into concrete action points with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. The Federation has currently a team placed with the ERCS in Cairo and in Al-Arish to assist the National Society with its tasks and responsibilities to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

The general objective of the plan is to have in place plans and activities for the ERCS and its branches in order to respond efficiently and effectively to the humanitarian needs, with a particular focus on:

- Continued flow of relief goods destined to Gaza.
- Population displacement from Gaza into border regions.
- Combination of above scenarios.

The current response measures planned include:

- Provision of emergency shelter, basic first aid, distribution of relief goods (food and non-food), and provision of essential life saving services, (Medical and disease prevention), as well as psychosocial support and restoration of family links.
- Enhancing logistics capacities and volunteer mobilization.

To prepare for the above and in-line with the contingency plan scenarios, the following actions were implemented:

Measures planned	ERCS	Federation	ICRC	PNS
Enhance ERC logistics capacity to cope with increased volume of goods including establishing a pipeline and mobilization tables.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ERCS daily mobilization tables were established.</li> <li>• Focal points for logistics are appointed at headquarters and field level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical and other support to ERCS. Consolidation of Mob. table at regional level.</li> <li>• Circulate updated docs.</li> <li>• Coordination with PNS operating in Egypt.</li> <li>• Identify critical needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify critical needs from Gaza.</li> <li>• Circulate updated docs in OPT.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow Movement procedures on donation to Gaza via Egypt.</li> <li>• Inform ERCS of the PNS staff present in Egypt and Movement of goods, medical and relief Items.</li> </ul>
Support ERC in provision of first aid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase capacity of Rafah and El Arish FA posts.</li> <li>• Ensure adequate and pre positioned supply of medical items</li> <li>• Set up additional first aid posts if needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alert regional networks if requested.</li> <li>• Support the provision of refresher courses for ERCS volunteers and consolidation of FA teams.</li> </ul>		Provide regional personnel if requested.
Pre position ERC teams with mandate to respond in defined sectors in coordination with Egyptian authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assign field teams various roles related to reception, guidance, support and services provision for arriving casualties and/or displaced populations.</li> <li>• Support communications in form of mobiles / VHF as required and linked to Ops Rooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support as requested by ERCS and its branches at field level.</li> <li>• Alert and deploy other technical delegates to support ERCS teams if requested.</li> </ul>		Provide delegates as planned.
Pre position emergency shelter and Food and NFI relief supplies to enable rapid response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relief items are procured by ERCS as per current DREF plans</li> <li>• Map quantities/availability of relief supplies (tents, blankets, plastic sheets, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, other)</li> <li>• Pre arrange relief modalities and teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather necessary information from donor NS's.</li> <li>• Technical support as requested.</li> </ul>	Gather necessary information from donor NS in Gaza.	Provide cash and in-kind support as per mob table.

Measures planned	ERCS	Federation	ICRC	PNS
	for registration, distribution and re supply			
Alert selected RC/RC Movement DM tools (water and medical ERUs) to be on standby for deployment under ERC leadership and IFRC coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre arrange with selected PNSs for possible.</li> <li>• Water/Sanitation and Health ERUs for rapid deployment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist in Rapid Assessment and advise on appropriate response tools.</li> <li>• Pre select qualified FACT/RDRT team members if needed for rapid deployments.</li> </ul>	Participate in assessments and coordination.	Standby and make ERU units and other teams available when alerted.
Support and expand as needed ERC volunteer base to manage the above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300 volunteers mobilized. Provision of volunteer kits, accommodation, meals, transport, rest and PSP support.</li> <li>• Establish rotation program for teams.</li> <li>• Coordinate RFL with ICRC.</li> </ul>	Tech support as requested.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange for RFL rapid refreshers training modules.</li> <li>• Tech support of RFL.</li> </ul>	
Coordination of roles and responsibilities with all key players (RCRC Movement and non-Movement partners)	Establish crisis working group lead by ERCS and co chaired by IFRC at both HQ and field levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination and sharing of info with NS present in country.</li> <li>• Advocacy and advice to NSs in channelling aid.</li> </ul>	Advocacy and advice to NSs in channelling aid.	
Support ERC to establish operations rooms as needed and as close as possible to the field (Rafah and Al Arish reporting to ERCS headquarters).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 ops rooms are established in El Arish, Rafah.</li> <li>• Continuous mapping of the resources and material available and identification of critical gaps.</li> </ul>	Tech support at field level in set up and operations.		
Strengthen and formalize close coordination with PRCS and ICRC with the view of establishing an early warning system for potential scenarios.	Through HQ Ops room closely liaise on daily basis with PRCS HQ and ICRC to identify trends on the ground, likely scenarios, and closely gauge population mood.	Close links with PRCS HQ to feed in info on latest developments especially in border areas.	Feed in critical info from Gaza on changing situation and potential developments.	Ensure coordinated response.
Enhance current information sharing and reporting mechanisms to better coordinate humanitarian aid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce short daily sit reps summarizing situation and activities.</li> <li>• Circulate within the movement and appropriate national and international forums.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Sit Reps.</li> <li>• Coordinate with WHO and others.</li> </ul>		

### Pre-positioning of relief stocks (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: Relief items are available in anticipation of a possible large-scale influx of people from Gaza seeking safety, shelter, and assistance.**

### **Activities planned at ERCS headquarters (relief and logistics department) and at branch levels (El-Arish and Rafah branches):**

- Procurement and pre-positioning (for 100 families, 8 persons per family) of blankets, mattress, clothes, tarpaulins, family tents, kitchen sets, jerry cans, hygiene kits, and a minibus for the transport of volunteers.
- Monitor the existing situation and conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.

The procurement of relief items is in process. Items will be stored in the ERCS warehouse as buffer stock in case of a population displacement.

Several PNS present in Egypt are organizing the procurement of large quantities of relief items, and positioning it for delivery to Gaza. The newly established Red Cross and Red Crescent coordination meeting in El Arish will help to gather this information and report on these important contributions.

The Qatar Red Crescent was present since the very first hours of the crisis. Through a contribution of USD 2.5 million, 3,000 hygiene kits, 3,000 kitchen kits, 3,000 jerry cans and 300 family tents were procured and sent to Rafah. Medical equipment and drugs (5 anesthesia machines, 5 ICU ventilators, 3 emergency portable ventilators and 5 defibrillators) were sent to Gaza hospitals as well as 5 ambulances and 2 generators via the Rafah gate. A medical team consisting of 7 doctors was also deployed to Cairo. Efforts are also underway to begin studying recovery plans, particularly the reconstruction of hospitals.

The Saudi, Emirati, Kuwaiti, and Turkish Red Crescent are also procuring medical equipment to be sent to Gaza. The United Arab Emirates Red Crescent provided also some contribution in cash to Egyptian Red Crescent to procure assistance needed to Gaza populations.

The ERCS is also procuring medical supplies and equipment (from a French Red Cross contribution of EUR 250,000). These items are intended to be donated to PRCS and transferred to Gaza.

UNHCR had also signed a memorandum of understanding with the ERCS for the procurement of additional relief assistance to the Gaza population. The understanding outlines the cooperation to prepare ERCS contingency stocks and provide the needed humanitarian assistance.

### **Psychological support and restoring family links (RFL)**

**Objective: Psycho-social support is provided to affected families and ERCS capacities in RFL are enhanced.**

#### **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 ERCS RFL capacity, with the support of ICRC.
- Procure telecom hardware.
- Conduct refresher training as required.



ERCS volunteer teams are providing psycho social support, (PSP) visiting the wounded Palestinians in the several hospitals in Egypt, helping the families when accompanying the injured. Several ERCS branches are involved (Giza, Cairo, El Arish, Ismaelia branches, etc.). To prepare further, the teams in El Arish and the regional PSP coordinator will join the Federation team to provide a series of refresher courses both in El Arish and in Cairo to evaluate the work done, debrief the volunteers and prepare the teams in case of a large influx. The Qatar Red Crescent has initiated a PSP program in Cairo visiting the wounded Palestinians transferred in Cairo hospitals. A team of 7 doctors are also based in Cairo to provide support in the Egyptian hospitals.

An RLF training is also planned based on a module prepared by the ICRC. The ERCS has assigned a human resource coordinator to mobilize or train and prepare additional teams of volunteers to ready and operational should a large population movement occur from Gaza.

## Logistics

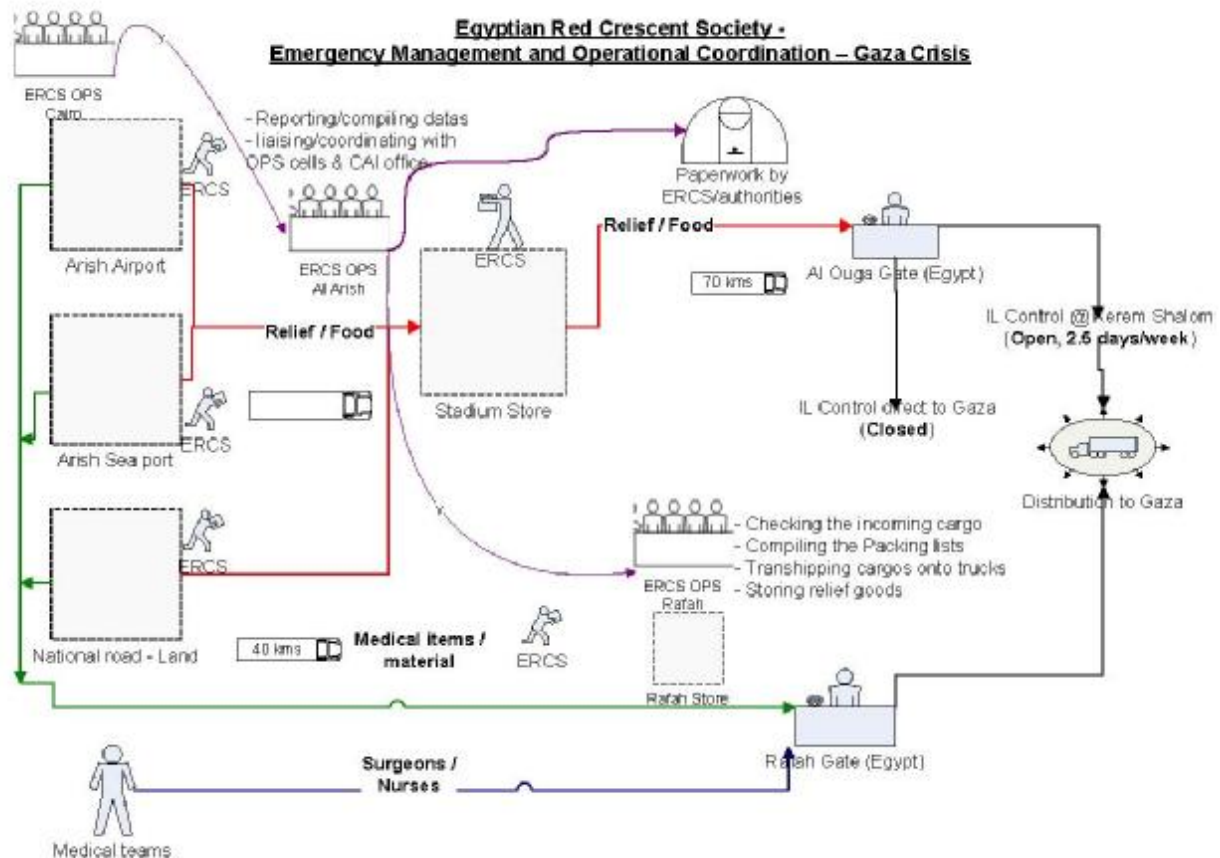
**Objective: Operational objectives are supported in procuring and delivering a range of relief items in line with operational priorities.**

### Activities planned:

- Assess and reinforce the ERCS's local logistics capacity increasing the coordinated mobilization of relief goods including reception of all incoming goods; warehousing and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points. The Federation will also work with the ERCS to support and build logistics capacity through logistic and relief workshops.
- Support the ERCS in establishing a resource mobilization table and relief system with the support of the Dubai Logistic Service Centre.
- Conduct rapid refresher on logistics methods and standards.
- Establish/reinforce the operation room in the ERCS headquarters, and the El-Arish and Rafah branches, increasing staff capacity and performance, and strengthening the communication skills.
- Liaise and coordinate actions with the local authorities and other key actors.



The ERCS, supported by the Federation, is working on mobilizing specific relief items to respond to needs in the field and donors are urged to coordinate with the ERCS and the Federation's Regional Office for North Africa regarding specific and outstanding needs.



The ERCS teams and volunteers are transporting the goods from the ports of entry into El Arish on trucks to Gaza. Additionally, two operations rooms (Arish and Rafah) have been established to monitor and coordinate the work continuously with key agencies and partners on the ground including Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, ICRC, and UN agencies. With the support of the Federation, the ERCS is also preparing relief stocks for possible population displacement at or near Rafah.

The ERCS is working closely in support of the local government to load and off load goods, monitor the supply chain, record keeping and facilitation of access to many donors. ERCS is based within the Rafah crossing, at Ouja crossing, at the Arish Airport, Sea port, and the storage stadium.

The work is shared with other agencies: WFP is palletizing and staging goods at airport and stadium; WHO IT specialists are working with the ERCS to input detailed data on arriving goods; the authorities are providing pallets, trucks, spaces, and security, while ERCS volunteers provide the human resources in support of much of the above.

## Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The ERCS has created a specific website page on the Gaza crisis <http://www.rcegypt.org.eg>. A Newsletter is under completion. The ERCS in El Arish and Rafah were often interviewed. The ERCS Secretary General and the Director General participated in several TV News magazine and talk shows. The ERCS President has been convening high level meeting with the Heads of the UN agencies, Government Representatives and RCRC Movement, calling for an effective coordination between the several actors. Efforts with the business community have also been successful. The ERCS, through their headquarters emergency cell and within its branches, is maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders. These regular updates are provided and communicated to the Federation, which is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations.

Regular informal email updates are shared by the Federation's Operations Coordinator with the Movement and National Societies. Frequent contacts are maintained with local diplomatic missions, UN agencies and NGO's. Since the beginning of the crisis, several teleconferences have been held with National Societies. A communication advisor has been identified and should soon join the ERCS shortly to reinforce effective media contacts and reporting.

## 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:

- In Egypt: Prof Gabr, Secretary General, Egyptian Red Crescent Society, Phone: ++20 22 6703979; fax: +20 22 6703967; email: [erc@egyptianrc.org](mailto:erc@egyptianrc.org)
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**DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY**

Annex I

**EGYPT: GAZA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS**

MDREG008

Revised Budget

BUDGET CHF

**RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	57,100
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	36,200
Food	33,600
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	5,000
Medical & First Aid	3,500
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	3,600
Other Supplies & Services	25,000

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**Total Relief Needs 164,000****CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	35,000
Computers & Telecom Equipment	15,000
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	15,000
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	

**TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES**

Storage - Warehouse	70,000
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	30,000

**PERSONNEL**

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	25,500
National Staff	
National Society Staff	20,000
Consultants	

**WORKSHOPS & TRAINING**

Workshops & Training	10,000
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**GENERAL EXPENSES**

Travel	5,000
Information & Public Relations	3,000
Office running costs	6,333
Communication Costs	10,167
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	1,500
Other General Expenses	7,000

**SERVICE FEES**

Service Fees

**PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

Programme Support - PSR	29,024
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**Total Operational Needs 282,524**

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**DREF ALLOCATION 446,524**

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