

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Palestine: Flash Floods

DREF operation n° MDRPS004  
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000015-PSE  
6 September 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 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 68,271 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 27 January 2010 to support the Palestine Red Crescent Society deliver assistance to some 1,500 beneficiaries<sup>1</sup> and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks in sight of future heavy rains.

Thanks to the activities funded through this DREF allocation, the Palestine Red Crescent Society effectively assisted 1,437 persons affected by the floods by mobilizing its volunteers and its pre-positioned stocks of non-food items. The DREF funds also allowed the Red Crescent to partially replenish its stocks and to intensify the training of its volunteers of the Gaza strip for future similar events as flash floods are frequent in Gaza.



Boxes of relief items unloaded during the January distribution.  
Photo: PRCS

The experience gained in terms of coordination with the local authorities (civil defense) and other actors has reinforced the presence of the Palestine Red Crescent at the different coordination mechanisms and has contributed to the revision of its Gaza contingency plan.

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and the Canadian Red Cross contributed Euro 32,900 (approximately CHF 47,105) and CAD 20,000 (approximately CHF 20,945) to replenish the allocation from DREF made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>.

At the end of the operation, a balance of Swiss francs 1,112 remained, which will be returned to DREF.

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

<sup>1</sup> The initial number of beneficiaries was 2,500, but this was lowered after review of the assessments showing the impact of the rains being lower than expected.

## The situation

Starting on 18 January and then again at the end of February 2010, the poorer households of parts of the Gaza Strip were severely affected twice by torrential rains. In both cases the Palestine Red Crescent Society supported these families with rescue and non-food items.

From the late night of 18 January and the following 24 hours, torrential rains caused heavy flooding in parts of this densely populated area. As a result, 217 families in Wadi Gaza, living in their simple shelters and houses, had their houses either severely or partially flooded.

New heavy rains hit Gaza again in the end of February. As a result, several households, especially poor structures built of plastic sheeting, corrugated roofs and asbestos were flooded. Despite the large volume of rain, the level of destruction and impact on the families was less severe than that of January.

These rains hit the most vulnerable of an already very vulnerable population. Of its 1.5 million inhabitants, more than one million Gazans are registered as refugees, mostly living in camps. After the 2008/2009 war with the Israeli security forces that left severe and widespread destruction of infrastructure and households, the conditions of the local populations are, if possible, much worsened.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Palestine Red Crescent Society intervention was timely, needs-based and effective. The entire DREF allocation was used, save Swiss francs 1,112, with an additional small amount coming from the International Federation's representation in Palestine to cover additional the costs of mobilizing volunteers.

This intervention reinforced the outcomes of the evaluation following the 2008-2009 conflict that there was a need to revise the existing Red Crescent contingency plan for Gaza. This is presently being finalized, with the participation and involvement of local partners and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners.

## Achievements against outcomes

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

**Outcome: Palestine Red Crescent ensured timely response based on the priority needs of the beneficiaries and provided basic relief items according to the results of the assessments conducted by the National Society.**

#### Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Replenish stocks used in the first hours of the relief operation (blankets, mattresses and hygiene kits).
- Preposition relief supplies.
- Mobilize and equip volunteers.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions (including beneficiary satisfaction surveys and lessons learned for volunteers and National Society staff).

#### Impact:

While formal satisfaction surveys have not been run, the feedback received from those reached by the operation was quite positive. The items distributed were perceived as appropriate and responding to the needs expressed, and the interaction between beneficiaries and the Red Crescent volunteers a very open one.

Before the onset of the rains, both in January and in February, the Red Crescent activated its contingency plan and its operation room. This meant more than 50 volunteers were mobilized to pre-alert the most exposed communities, contact the Civil Defense. Both the National Society's emergency units and its hospital were alerted of the coming rains and the disaster management units were put on alert.

When the rains started, all calls were centralized to the operation room that coordinated evacuations, first aid, provision of emergency medical case and search and rescue for the affected. The volunteers proceeded to assess the needs and start distributions. The table below summarizes the items that were distributed and details of items the purchased to replenish its stocks.

Item	1 <sup>st</sup> distribution (January)	2 <sup>nd</sup> distrib. (end of February)	TOTAL	Purchased (replenish.)
Tents	56	-	56	-
Sleeping bags	679	60	739	-
Blankets	1,200	237	1,437	1,301
Hygiene kits	440	30	470	213
Candles (pack)	440	-	440	-
Heaters	350	30	380	-
Kitchen kits	278	30	308	-
Tarpaulins	260	60	320	-
Wheel chairs	3	-	3	-
Mattresses	250	60	310	446
Oil lamps	100	60	160	-

The Palestine Red Crescent Society took advantage of the period between the first heavy rains and the last round of heavy rains to gather its volunteers, analyze the activities done and make suggestions for future interventions. The results of the five meetings held were instrumental not only to improve its ability to better respond to similar situations- which proved useful for the second round of rains- but highlighted several issues that have since been channeled to the process of revising the contingency plan for Gaza.

While maintaining its operational autonomy, the PRCS has been coordinating its activities with the Civil Defence, UNRWA and maintained the clusters informed of its activities. The Palestine Red Crescent presence on the ground and its experience in humanitarian operations, along with its operational capacity, positions it as a key actor in case of sudden emergencies and disasters.

## How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## 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

MDRPS004 - Palestine - Floods

FINAL REPORT

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/01-2010/07
Budget Timeframe	2010/01-2010/12
Appeal	MDRPS004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>	68,271					68,271
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	68,271					68,271
<b>C6. Other Income</b>	68,271					68,271
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>	68,271					68,271
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	68,271					68,271
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	100%					100%

## II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0					0
<b>C. Income</b>	68,271					68,271
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	-67,159					-67,159
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	1,112					1,112

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/01-2010/07
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### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>68,271</b>					<b>68,271</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Clothing & textiles	38,373	40,848				40,848	-2,475	
Other Supplies & Services	18,692	19,847				19,847	-1,155	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>57,065</b>	<b>60,695</b>				<b>60,695</b>	<b>-3,630</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	1,041						1,041	
Distribution & Monitoring	521						521	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,041						1,041	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>2,603</b>						<b>2,603</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Society Staff	3,124						3,124	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>3,124</b>						<b>3,124</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training		2,238				2,238	-2,238	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>		<b>2,238</b>				<b>2,238</b>	<b>-2,238</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Communications	1,041						1,041	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>1,041</b>						<b>1,041</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	4,438	4,099				4,099	339	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>4,438</b>	<b>4,099</b>				<b>4,099</b>	<b>339</b>	
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions		128				128	-128	
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>		<b>128</b>				<b>128</b>	<b>-128</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>68,271</b>	<b>67,159</b>				<b>67,159</b>	<b>1,111</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>1,111</b>				<b>1,111</b>		