

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Middle East & North Africa: Civil Unrest

Emergency appeal n° MDR82001
GLIDE n° OT-2011-000025-TUN/LBY/EGY
Operations update n° 1
4 March 2011

Period covered by this Ops Update: 1-2 March 2011

Appeal target (current): CHF 4,458,090; **Appeal coverage:** Appeal coverage: 33% (provisional); while the initial donor response to this appeal has been encouraging, cash contributions are required; contributions are being recorded in the system and the updated figure will be reflected shortly in upcoming updates.

[< click here to access the donor contributions >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 1 March 2011 for CHF 4.4m for 6 months to assist some 100,000 potential beneficiaries (this remains a provisional figure and will be adjusted based on more detailed assessments and operational developments).
- The total of CHF 403,046 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation as follows:
 - ✓ CHF 150,000 on 24 January 2011 to support the Tunisian Red Crescent.
 - ✓ CHF 59,374 on 24 February 2011 to support the IFRC's Middle East & North Africa (MENA) Zone to conduct a field emergency mission to the National Societies of Tunisia and Egypt to assess more closely the impact of the current unrest in Libya.
 - ✓ CHF 107,672 on 26 February 2011 to support the Egyptian Red Crescent Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 10,000 beneficiaries.
 - ✓ CHF 86,000 on 2 March 2011 to support the Malta Red Cross to assist some 1,000 beneficiaries
- 13-person Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) has deployed to provide support to the IFRC's Amman Zone office, the IFRC's Regional Representation in Tunis, and the Tunisian Red Crescent Society (TRCS). FACT members are providing expertise in logistics, relief, health, water and sanitation, base camp set up, IT/telecommunications, and information management and reporting.



Libyan Red Crescent volunteers.
Photo credit: Libuan Red Crescent / IFRC

Summary and key messages:

- The general situation in western Libya, where the government retains control, reportedly remains tense and at a relative stalemate. The Libyan government reportedly continues to have a strong grip on the capital Tripoli. Several cities, including Tripoli, have experienced confrontations between government and opposition forces.
- The ongoing insecurity and uncertainty over the political outcome is provoking further population movements towards and across the Libya-Tunisia border. The most recent reports from the UN indicate

that a total of 147,000 people have crossed into neighboring countries, with an estimated 75,000 into Tunisia (majority Tunisians), some 69,000 into Egypt (majority Egyptians), and some 3,000 into Niger (majority Nigerians). The immediate fear is that a protracted situation could exponentially lead to an overwhelming surge of people seeking protection, assistance, and shelter across borders and in neighbouring countries.

- The IFRC team, directly in support of the TRCS, is actively working in the most relevant border region – near the Ras Adjir border crossing – to continuously assess needs and increase service delivery. In addition to continuing to provide basic health services and blankets, the IFRC and TRCS are focused on the following: establishing a transit camp for up to 10,000 people; constructing local pit latrines to improve sanitation; mobilizing additional relief supplies, food and water; and establishing a base camp to house 100 international delegates and TRCS volunteers. In addition to the FACT, the following deployments are in process: a Logistics ERU from France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom; a Base Camp ERU from Denmark, Finland, and Germany; and Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRTs) from Morocco and Syria.
- An initial plan of action is in process and will articulate the evolving strategy of the operation together with a mobilization table that will be made available shortly reflecting specific needs, target locations, and the overall pipeline of goods upon which effective and timely decisions on donor contributions can be made.

The situation

Based on the most recent information available from the IFRC's assessment teams located at the Libya and Tunisia border crossing area, the overall situation remains fluid but preliminary assessments indicate a critical need to provide relief assistance and address sanitation needs, which together are the current priorities for the coming days.

Since 22 February, more than 75,000 people have crossed the border from Libya into Tunisia, with the length of stay at the transition camp averaging 4 days. As of 2 March, approximately 24,000 people had crossed the at the border and were waiting for onward transfer. Although the majority of arrivals are Egyptian nationals, and increasing number are from Bangladesh and southern Africa. In Dehiba, a secondary border crossing to the south, an estimated 600 people are crossing daily, and the FACT is scheduled to conduct an assessment in the next 24 hours. There are almost no women and children, and the few that have arrived are being separated from the crowd to receive separate care.

For those who have entered Tunisia, schools and sporting centers are currently serving as temporarily shelters but other solutions need to be identified. The number of people crossing the border fluctuates daily, but is reportedly increasing to about 12,000 per day, which exceeds the capacity of the evacuation and transit camp.

The TRCS has been very active in supporting other key humanitarian actors (UNHCR, IOM, and WFP) in the distribution of water, first aid, crowd control and other critical activities. The local authorities have specified serious concerns about the lack of latrines, the limited number of garbage collection trucks, and price increases for local goods as agencies are procuring locally which has a direct effect on the local economy and population. There are also concerns about the duplication of efforts by agencies and a need for improved coordination.

The Tunisian population's response to the situation has been overwhelmingly positive, massive, and generous. Local communities have provided blankets, bread, and other food items which are delivered by trucks on a daily basis and stored with the "Association de la protection de la révolution tunisienne." This generosity however has limits and the international community is encouraged to support these initial efforts.

In terms of preparedness action in other countries, the Yemen Red Crescent Society is currently regularly meeting with IFRC representatives in Yemen to discuss the on-going planning for branches affected by the demonstrations across Yemen. In the south, the YRCS continued discussions with the Movement on emergency response and mobilization of 30 first aid volunteers in the three locations of Ma'ala, Tawahi and Al Mansoura. Last week inter-agency contingency planning in Yemen was discussed with other organisations including the UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and CARE. The Movement parties will meet next week to discuss the Movement Preparedness and Contingency Planning in relation to the current events in Yemen, and IFRC

are deploying a specialist contingency planner in the upcoming days to support YRCS in updating their contingency plan and setting up and operation room.

Coordination and partnerships

In response to the situation, the IFRC MENA Zone Office has established an Emergency and Events Monitoring Team (ZEEMoT) with an emergency operations room from which the Zone will manage and support the overall regional response to the crisis in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia, as well as other countries. Immediate activities include coordination meetings, daily information updates, and support in the form of administration and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) deployments based on FACT requests and needs. It is important to underline that although the immediate crisis at this stage is in response to events in Libya, efforts are underway to monitor events and their impact throughout the zone.

IFRC 's Zone office is in close communication and exchanging operational information with OCHA Regional Office for the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia in Cairo

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

The Preliminary Emergency Appeal and informal reports since the launch emphasized that this operation remains in the early stages, with initial plans structured on the basis of limited assessment data, the analysis of pre-existing baseline data and secondary sources. Efforts to assess needs and plan appropriate responses are being scaled-up but the situation remains very fluid. However, it is expected that the current operation will change considerably depending on the development of events. The bulk of the operation remains aimed at providing support to the population leaving Libya through the borders with Egypt and Tunisia while other potential areas of operation are being considered.



Tunisia Red Crescent volunteers register patients in the border clinic.
Photo credit: Tammam Aloudat /IFRC

In Tunisia, the IFRC is making significant efforts within the operational response to augment and build the capacity of the Tunisian Red Crescent so that it can meet its humanitarian service obligations. This capacity building includes rapidly increasing TRCS staffing for the following longer-term coordinator level positions: volunteer coordinator, operations coordinator, and communications coordinator. A major focus and priority function of the current FACT is to work closely with the NS Secretary General to facilitate, support, and complement this capacity building process and related discussions. This includes the need to support and advocate for the constructive use of NS volunteers by other agencies.

The tables below summarize action taken to date by sector.

Emergency health	
Outcome: The immediate health risks of the affected population are reduced through the provision of first aid and emergency medical services.	
Outputs	Activities planned
Target population is provided with rapid medical management of injuries and diseases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of medical and first aid supplies. • Training of staff and volunteers of national societies in first aid and referral services. • Mobilization of volunteers and establishment of first aid posts and EMS units. • Provision of first aid and referral services.
Target population and NS staff and volunteers are provided with psychosocial support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of psychosocial support (PSP) to people affected by the emergency. • Provision of PSP to staff and volunteers of national societies engaged in emergency response. • Training of national society staff and volunteers on PSP programmes.

Sector overview: The majority of cases received at IFRC and MoH clinics are chronic and non-communicable, such as diabetics who are out of medicines. As long as most people stay for short periods, there are few health risks other than the deteriorating sanitation situation. Nutrition is poor and consists mostly of sandwiches distributed to people. The psychological situation is admittedly bad with arrivals having had to move, migrate, queue for days, and as they are uncertain about what will be of them.

Progress to date: The Tunisian RC has set up a small clinic and pharmacy directly at the border point to provide first aid and basic medical services. Staffed with 2 doctors, several nurses, and several volunteers who are trained in first aid, the clinic supports the civil defence ambulances and the MoH clinic and provides consultations to patients. This covers mostly the people on the border point but not in the transitional camps. There are female volunteers supporting any need by female patients. To date, the TRCS has seen 2,800 people, of which 86 have been referred to another health facility.

Operational gaps, challenges or constraints: Volunteers are tired and need accommodation (see logistics section).

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to the affected population.

Output	Activities planned
Target population is provided with safe water, adequate sanitation, and hygiene items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed assessment of needs and mapping of resources available. • Procurement of materials and supplies. • Distribution of water and hygiene items. • Erection of temporary latrines in transit camps in border areas. • Basic hygiene promotion

Sector overview: The need to provide sufficient water and adequate sanitation is critical. In addition, preliminary discussions have identified the need for 10,000 hygiene kits.

Progress to date: The ICRC is facilitating the transport of 348 latrine plates and tarpaulins, while the Finish and British national societies are sending in an additional 450 plates, with a 100 to arrive in the coming days. To prepare for their arrival, the TRCS is working with a local digger to dig pits and line them with sand bags, using local procured flour sacks from bakeries. Most of the latrines are being set up by the TRCS for use at transit camp that will be managed by the TRCS and have the capacity to host up to 10,000 people. A water treatment plant is also en route, but the source of water is to be determined. Two Regional Disaster Response Teams are being deployed from Syria and Morocco to help deliver water and sanitation services.

Operational gaps, challenges or constraints: There is minimal water at the border. Water, sanitation and hygiene cluster members are discussing developing a new pipeline.

Emergency shelter and basic household items

Outcome: The immediate sheltering needs of the target population are met.

Output	Activities planned
Emergency shelter assistance is provided to the target population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed assessment of needs and mapping of resources available. • Procurement of shelter materials and basic household items, including tents, blankets, and mats. • Erection of emergency shelter in transit camps in border areas. • Distribution of basic household items. • Further assessments for other shelter solutions in case of protracted sheltering needs.

Situation overview: To date, most household goods such as sleeping mats and blankets are available for purchase locally, although this could change quickly if population movements increase.

Progress to date: To date, 6,100 blankets have been locally procured and distributed. In coordination with the ICRC, the IFRC will be working with the TRCS to establish a transit camp to house up to 10,000 people. Discussions are ongoing with the government and UNHCR to select a site in the next 48 hours. The initial goal is to meet the needs of 50,000 people in the short-term, with up to 10,000 people at a time

being served. Thus relief supplies (hygiene items, shelter materials, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, water containers and blankets) would potentially need to be secured to match the needs of these beneficiary populations. Further details will be available in the coming days.

Operational challenges or constraints: See logistics section.

Food security and livelihoods

Outcome: Immediate food needs of the affected population are met.

Output	Activities planned
Target population is provided with appropriate food rations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of food supplies. • Distribution of meals ready to eat. • Assessment of feasibility of providing cash transfers for people in transit to meet immediate emergency needs.

Sector overview: Most food needs are currently being covered by the (national committee for the revolution), but WFP is scaling up operations. In particular, there is a question as to whether it is best to supply food parcels or provide bulk food to be prepared in cooking facilities.

Progress to date: TRCS has signed an agreement with WFP to support the distribution of 80 tons of emergency biscuits and to purchase additional sandwiches and basic meals

Operational challenges or constraints: Nothing to report

Contingency planning and preparedness

Outcome: By advancing the process of contingency planning capacity of the national societies in MENA zone to respond to civil unrest, through effective and appropriate interventions, is further strengthened.

Output	Activities planned
Contingency plans are developed and preparedness measures ensured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map existing resources and capacities of the National Societies, Federation and other key stakeholders in the region. • Conduct rapid trainings for staff and volunteers on how to develop a contingency plan. • Conduct one workshop with key stakeholders to develop the contingency plan. • Identify the overall essential preparedness gap. • Procure and implement the necessary preparedness activities.

Progress to date: Actions are underway on a daily basis to support national societies on short-term and long-term actions needed for response and preparedness.

Operational challenges or constraints:

Logistics

Outcome: The supply chain from arrival of relief items, including clearance, storage and forwarding to distribution, as well as local procurement as required, is effectively managed.

Output	Activities planned
All programs receive professional logistics support and goods are procured and received for distribution as planned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up efficient logistics unit and identify best supply chain to support the operation. • Carry out coordinated reception of air and sea relief goods and arrange transportation to distributions points. • Training of National Society staff and volunteers in warehouse management and other logistics services. • Liaise and coordinate with other key actors to ensure best uses of all information. • Monitor activities and provide reporting.

Progress to date: The FACT Logistics Coordinator is on-site in the border region actively managing the logistics function while also serving other key functions. Meetings have been held with airport authorities, and temporary warehouse and local logistical staff are being identified. Sites are currently being identified for a transit camp for 10,000 people and a base camp for 100 TRCS volunteers and international delegates. In support of these operations, a Logistics ERU is being deployed jointly by the

British, French and Swiss Red Cross societies and a Base Camp ERU is being deployed jointly from the Danish, Finnish and German Red Cross societies. In addition, a mobilization table has been released to coordinate additional contributions from all Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies.

Plans for the coming days include securing transport for incoming cargo, investigating what items can be procured in the local market, updating the mobilization table as appropriate, assessing local procurement capacity to purchase timber and set up latrines, and establishing a procurement system and fleet management system.

Operational challenges or constraints: There is a huge increase on incoming cargo and outgoing flights and the airport may become congested in the coming days.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

A communications delegate is on the ground and is focusing on getting visibility for the efforts of the Tunisian Red Crescent Society. Dozens of interviews have taken place with English, French and Arabic language networks, including BBC, CNN and Al-Jazeera.

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:

- In Tunisia: Dr. Tahar Cheniti, Secretary General, Tunisian Red Crescent; phone: + 216 71 320 630
fax: +216 71 320 151; email: hilal.ahmar@planet.tn
- In Egypt: Pr. Mamdouh Gabr, Secretary General, Egyptian Red Crescent; phone: + 20226703979;
fax: +20226703967; email: erc@egyptianrc.org
- In Tunisia : Gerard Lautredou, Regional Representative, Regional Representation for North Africa;
phone: + 216 71 862 485; fax: + 216 71 862 971; email: gerard.lautredou@ifrc.org
- In Jordan : Dr. Manhal Al Annaz, Acting head of programme services/operation, MENA Zone office ;
phone: +962 6 5694911 4113 ; Fax: +962 6 5694556; email: Manhal.Annaz@ifrc.org
- In Jordan : Dr.Hosam Faysal , disaster management coordinator , MENA Zone office ; phone: +962
65694911 4113 ; Fax: +962 6 5694556; email: hosam.faysal@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operation Coordinator Disaster Services Department ; phone :+41 22
730 4381; fax: +41 22 730 0395; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

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