

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° 3
17 March 2011

Period covered by this Ops Update: 9-15 March 2011

Appeal target (current): CHF 4,458,090; **Appeal coverage:** 71% (Note: this is an early provisional figure; contributions are being recorded. The cash support made for this operation is limited and donors are encouraged to increase cash contribution.)

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.
- A 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.
- According to recent reports, some 287,846 people have now crossed into the neighboring countries. However, the pace of the exodus has slowed, particularly along the Libya-Tunisian border, where it has dropped from a height of 15,000 people per day to 2,000-3,500 people per day since March 2. According to news agencies, conflict continues to trigger population movements within Libya. The continued fear is that a protracted situation could lead to an overwhelming surge of people seeking protection, assistance, and shelter across borders and in neighboring countries.



IFRC Secretary General Bekele Geleta meets with a camp resident during a recent visit to Tunisia.

Photo credit: Victor Lacken/IFRC

Summary and key messages:

- Conflict continues in several areas of Libya, and several cities continue to experience confrontations between government and opposition forces. This Operations Update focuses on the ongoing activities in Tunisia. A revised Emergency Appeal is being prepared and will be launched in the coming days which will provide a further update on future plans for the operation and for various contingencies.
- The FACT and the TRCS are actively working in the most relevant border region – near the Ras Adjir border crossing – to increase service delivery and build contingency capacity that will enable the Movement to scale up operations should the need arise.
- On a daily basis, the TRCS is delivering thousands of meals in the government of Tunisia transit camp at Shousha, as well as basic first aid and household goods. Over the past week, the TRCS and IFRC have focused on constructing local pit latrines to improve sanitation, establishing a transit camp for up to 10,000 people, feeding tens of thousands of people on a daily basis, and establishing a base camp to house more than 100 international delegates and TRCS volunteers.

- In addition to the FACT, the following teams have deployed: a Logistics Emergency Response Unit (ERU), a Base Camp ERU, a Mass Sanitation ERU, a Relief ERU, and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members. The UAE Red Crescent has also provided support for operations on the ground while also establishing a transit camp that currently serves approximately 1,000 persons.
- An initial plan of action is in process and articulates contingency planning scenarios, the evolving strategy of the operation, and specific needs, target locations, and the overall pipeline of goods required, with the goal of enabling effective and timely decisions on donor contributions.
- While the IFRC is appreciative of the support provided to this operation to date, partners are urged to avoid uncoordinated bilateral action and emphasize the need to work with the appeal operational objectives.

The situation

Conflict continues in several areas of Libya, and several cities continue to experience confrontations between government and opposition forces.

Since 22 February, more than 154,186 people have crossed the border from Libya into Tunisia, with the length of stay at the transition camp averaging 4 days. At this point, most Egyptian nationals have received transport home, and efforts continue to focus on securing flights for remaining migrants from countries such as Bangladesh, Sudan, and Ghana. The relative number of women and children are now increasing, but these groups have been placed in a family area where they can receive separate care.



Migrants from Libya seeks safety at a camp near the border in Tunisia.
Photo credit: Victor Lacken/IFRC

Although population flows to Tunisia have slowed since 2 March, an estimated 2,500-3,500 people per day continue to cross the border, and continued conflict within Libya creates the potential for a significant increase in migrant and refugee flows.

For those who have entered Tunisia, the military and UNHCR have organized a camp 8km from the border, with the current population averaging 15,000 each day. The TRCS has been critical in supporting this camp, helping set up tents, as well as serve meals and provide other services. The TRCS has also worked with the ICRC to facilitate more than 20,000 calls between migrants and their families around the world.

The Tunisian population's response to the situation continues to be extremely 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."

The Red Cross/Red Crescent continues to build and improve upon these initial efforts. Based on reports from IFRC assessment teams along the Tunisian side of the Libya border, there is a critical need to continue providing food and basic household goods, while increasing access to water and sanitation facilities, expanding capacity to shelter new arrivals, and improving the organization of relief systems. The Movement has erected a base camp to provide living and working accommodations for an estimated 100 volunteers from the Tunisian Red Crescent as well as for Movement staff supporting the operation. This base camp provides a foundation that will allow the Movement to scale up operations should the needs arise.

Coordination and partnerships

The IFRC's Zone Office in Amman and the Regional Representative in Tunis have responded in a proactive and effective manner by organizing assessments, the timely deployment of IFRC assets, and participating in daily coordination meetings taking place with the TRCS and the ICRC (in Tunis), resulting in effective cooperation and relations to date.

In the border region, IFRC and TRCS staff are likewise actively participating in the humanitarian coordination mechanisms with agencies working in the border region. As there appears to be a steady increase in the number of humanitarian organizations responding to the situation, a major focus of this effort continues to be to encourage all Movement partners to take a collaborative approach to this operation and avoid the risk of uncoordinated action.

In addition, the deployment of regional resources from Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine through the Regional Disaster Response Teams has enabled the use of the language and expertise from the Zone in the response and support to the TRCS operation.

More than national societies are supporting the Red Cross/Red Crescent response through financial, in-kind and/or human resources. These include the Algerian Red Crescent, American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Bulgarian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Chinese Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Lebanese Red Cross, Luxemburg Red Cross, Moroccan Red Crescent, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Palestinian Red Crescent, Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Syrian Red Crescent, and the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

A Revised Emergency Appeal is underway and is scheduled to be released in the coming days. Given the fluid situation on the ground, the projected activities under the appeal will aim to provide sustained support for the current level of arrivals, while laying the groundwork for a larger scale response should it be required. The bulk of the operation remains focused on providing support to the population leaving Libya through the borders with Tunisia and Egypt while other potential areas of operation are being considered.

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 in addition to field-based operational coordination positions in relief, logistics, volunteer management, health, and water and sanitation. 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.



*Lasaad Abbes works with other volunteers to prepare food in the camp.
Photo credit: Victor Lacken/IFRC*

Inside a tent used to prepare food, the heat is almost unbearable. Outside, several hundred migrant workers staying in Shousha transit camp wait in the hot noonday sun for one of the three meals provided daily. Lasaad Abbes and his team of volunteers prepare couscous, chicken and vegetables to feed the people who fled Libya and are waiting to go home.

This kitchen and feeding station are a joint effort of the Tunisian, Qatari and Algerian Red Crescent, who together provide 20,000 meals a day to people in need. Lasaad, a father of two, normally usually works as a chef in a hotel in Monastir, but came to Shousha camp because he wanted to help.

He is one of dozens of volunteers from around the country that together form the backbone of many of the services provided in the camp - from cooking meals, to distributing relief items to helping residents make phone calls to concerned family members abroad.

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 programs.

Progress to date: To date, thousands of consultations have been carried out in Shousha camp and at the border. TRCS medical personnel and volunteers have assisted with many of these consultations by providing first aid and helping to transfer patients from the border gate to the civil defense emergency tents. The Zone office has provided technical assistance for psychosocial support by sending Arabic manuals to TRCS.

Two mobile medical posts and two Interagency Emergency Health Kits, donated from the Spanish Red Cross, have arrived at the TRCS/IFRC transit camp. These will be used at the transit camp as well as reserved for use in the event of increased arrivals at the border. Each kit has supplies to serve 10,000 people over a 3-month period. In addition, an order has been made for first aid bags and stretchers for TRCS support of the border first aid post.

Operational gaps, challenges or constraints: A psychosocial support assessment mission is planned for the coming weeks. Once this is complete, TRCS volunteers will be trained in providing relevant psychosocial support for camp residents.

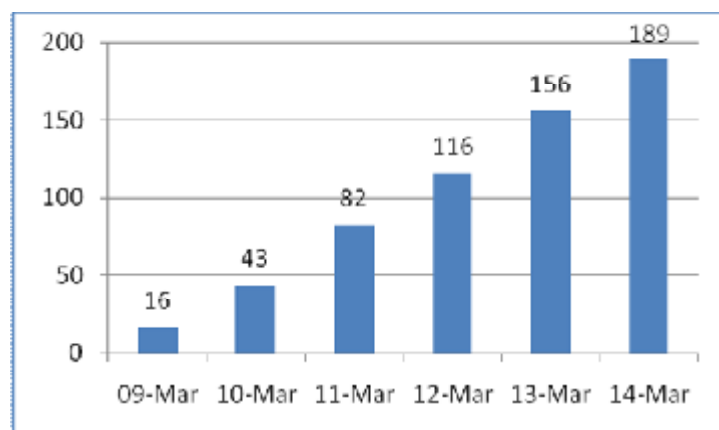
Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

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.

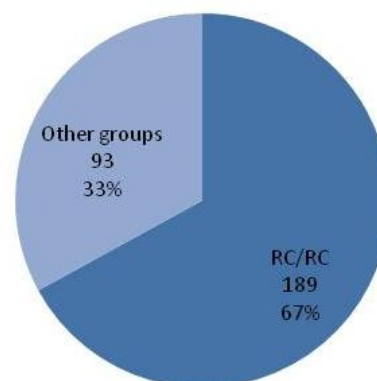
Output	Activities planned
Target population is provided with safe water, adequate sanitation, and hygiene items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed assessment of needs and mapping of resources available. • Procurement of materials and supplies. • Distribution of water and hygiene items. •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

Progress to date

IFRC/ICRC Latrine Construction: 9-14 March



Latrines constructed sector-wide, Movement as a % of total



Progress to date:

The TRCS water and sanitation coordinator has now assumed full responsibility for sanitation activities at Shousha camp. A Mass Sanitation ERU and a Regional Disaster Response Team member have deployed to support the TRCS in scaling up water and sanitation services.

Latrines

Sanitation conditions at Shousha camp have significantly improved. A week ago, only 50 latrines were available and as of 14 March, that number had increased to 282 latrines, of which 189 were constructed by the TRCS, IFRC and the ICRC. The number of persons per latrines has decreased significantly, from approximately 320 people per latrine to 56 people per latrine with this ratio improving as the camp population decreases. IFRC and the ICRC have hired a local company to ensure that the latrines are cleaned on a daily basis.

Beginning 15 March, a local excavator began digging latrines trenches at the IFRC/TRCS transit camp. Once the trenches are ready, they are lined with sand bags and frames built by local carpenters are installed on top.

Hygiene

The IFRC is also working with the TRCS to support hygiene promotion activities in the camp. To date, ten local hygiene promoters have been trained and activities are scheduled to begin on March 17. Wooden poster stands are also being produced to illustrate critical hygiene practices.

Water

The ICRC has helped construct 5 water tap stands in camp, and also provides daily water trucking. At the same time, at the planned base and transit camps, the IFRC has a water storage tank in place and is working to connect these to the local water pipeline. A water treatment plant is on site, with the capacity to treat enough water for 5,000 people each day.

Operational gaps, challenges or constraints:

Water pressure continues to weaken and the TRCS, IFRC, and the ICRC are exploring options to respond to this challenge. Currently, there are some boreholes that can offer non-potable water, and this water is currently being tested to see if it is acceptable for washing.

Access to water near the latrines has resulted in a new problem. People are using the privacy offered by the latrines to shower, and given the ground's limited capacity to absorb liquid, the shallow latrine trenches will fill up quickly. In response, IFRC is using a couple of the latrine frames to create private showering areas and providing signs about proper usage.

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.

Progress to date: With the goal of maximizing resources, and avoiding duplication and parallel structures, TRCS, IFRC and the ICRC have agreed to coordinate relief supply pipelines and jointly distribute relief items at one location in Shousha camp. Already IFRC hygiene-related items for more than 2,000 people have complemented sleeping mat, blankets and jerry cans from the TRCS/ICRC, together reaching 3,500 people over the past 3 days. Due to the ad-hoc nature of distributions conducted by multiple relief organizations in the camp, it is currently not possible to calculate the relative contribution of the Movement to the overall total.

Based on anticipated non-food item needs at both Shousha and the TRCS/IFRC transit camp, the relief team is working to scale up capacity to distribute to up to 30,000 people over time. To ensure there is no break in the pipeline, the team has requested a scale-up in most NFI commodities, which will be reflected in an updated Mobilization table by the regional logistics unit. A Relief ERU from Belgium, France,

Luxemburg and the Netherlands has arrived to provide expanded support for these activities.

Operational challenges or constraints: The team continues to work to bolster the relief systems of the TRCS, including streamlining warehouse organization, assessments, and distribution processes.

Camp construction and management update

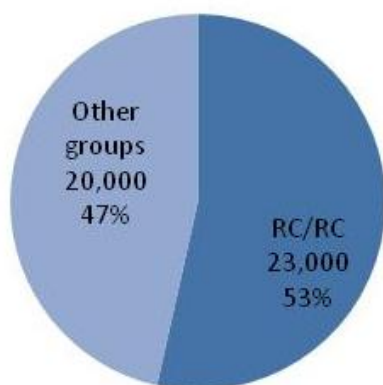
Base camp	- office tents are now available for staff during the day - accommodation tents ready for sleeping - kitchen being set up - water hook up complete; electricity hook up pending
Transit camp	- tents are now ready for 500 people - health clinic being set up; water hook up scheduled for March 15
Camp management	- working to ensure services are ready for registration, food, health, water and sanitation, basic household goods, restoring family links, etc.

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.

Daily meals in Shousha/UAE camps, Movement as a % of total



Daily meals by Movement - ongoing and planned

		Shousha	
Ongoing	TRCS/ICRC/Algerian RC		16,000
	Qatari RC		4,000
	Total		20,000
	UAE transit camp		
Planned	UAE RC		3,000
	TRCS/IFRC transit camp		
	Algerian RC		6,000
	Italian RC		4,000
Total			10,000

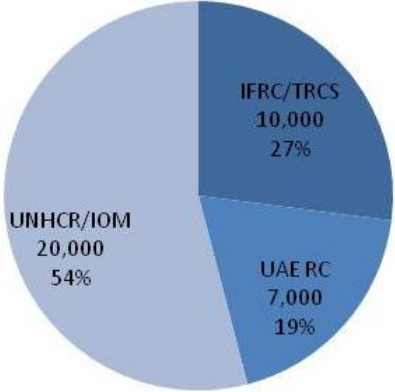
Each day in Shousha camp, TRCS volunteers are supported by the ICRC and the Qatari and Algerian RC to prepare and serve on average 18,000 meals. A number of other organizations are supporting these efforts, preparing an estimated 22,000 meals. The relief team has designed the architecture to provide shaded places for food lines and dining areas; these should be erected in the coming days.

With the recent opening of the UAE camp, already 1,000 people are now receiving 3 meals per day. The TRCS/IFRC transit camp is also planning to ensure sufficient meals are available when/if it opens. Currently, the Algerian and Italian RC estimate they will be able to provide up to 10,000 meals per day in support of these efforts.

Contingency planning and preparedness

Outcome: Contingency planning capacity is strengthened for the national societies in MENA zone to respond to civil unrest through effective and appropriate interventions.

Output	Activities planned
Contingency plans are developed and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map existing resources and capacities of the National Societies, Federation and other key stakeholders in the region.

<p>preparedness measures ensured.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 												
<p>Transit camp contingency capacity, Movement plans as a % of total</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="212 501 608 891"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organization</th> <th>Capacity</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>UNHCR/IOM</td> <td>20,000</td> <td>54%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IFRC/TRCS</td> <td>10,000</td> <td>27%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UAE RC</td> <td>7,000</td> <td>19%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>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.</p> <p>In Tunisia in particular, Movement contingency plans include the transit camps with a projected capacity of hosting 17,000 people at a time, or 46% of current plans.</p> <p>Operational challenges or constraints: Nothing to report</p>		Organization	Capacity	Percentage	UNHCR/IOM	20,000	54%	IFRC/TRCS	10,000	27%	UAE RC	7,000	19%
Organization	Capacity	Percentage											
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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

All programs receive professional logistics support and goods are procured and received for distribution as planned.

Activities planned

- 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 logistics team is focused on receiving, warehousing and delivering incoming equipment and supplies. To date, nine flights have arrived carrying 220 metric tons, with additional shipments expected in the coming days via air, sea, and land. The logistics team is also focused on building TRCS logistics capacity, with key TRCS staff now being trained on the job to put in place the required systems and procedures. Daily stock reports are shared with ICRC/TRCS and others to determine additional needs for the mobilization table.

As part of the continued response and as preparation to scale up activities if the needs arise, the logistics team has placed a particular focus on streamlining the warehouse system. Currently stocks are arriving via land, air and sea, including both local in-kind donations and international assistance from multiple Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. These stocks are then stored in multiple local TRCS warehouses at the border and in Ben Guerdane, as well as in field warehouses (Rubb halls) for IFRC and the ICRC. In the coming weeks, IFRC will be working with TRCS to consolidate all stocks in a regional warehouse co-located near the regional TRCS branch in Medenine. Once this consolidation is complete, one daily stock report will be issued from Medenine and all requests for new supplies will be processed from the central warehouse.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

A communications delegate has focused on getting visibility for the efforts of the Tunisian Red Crescent Society, including using print, photographic and video content to document the stories of volunteers and camp residents. 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.

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