

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Lebanon : Syrian Displaced

DREF operation n° MDRLB003
31 May, 2011

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 and Red Crescent emergency response. 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.

CHF 36,849 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 1500 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Local authorities estimate that between 1,000 and 4,000 Syrians have crossed to northern Lebanon in recent weeks (from Tall Kalakh region in Syria to Wadi Khaled and Tall Bire areas). Some have suggested the number may be higher, but at the same time, some have also already returned. The exact numbers are difficult to confirm.

According to the different sources that LRC was in contact with, this number was estimated on Friday 20 May 2011 to 1100 people.

Most of the persons who have crossed the border in recent weeks are women and children. Many of those who have crossed the border have come without any belongings. Most have found shelter with relatives or host families, and a small number are residing temporarily in a school in Tall Bire.

This operation is expected to be implemented over one month, and will therefore be completed by 26 June, 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 26 September, 2011).



Syrian families cross the border into the northern town of Bukayaa, Lebanon, on April 29, as they flee the violence in the Syrian town of Tel Kalakh, *Photo: Bilal Hussein/AP*

The situation

Due to the continuous situation in Syria which has led families' to flee from Tell Kalakh in Syria to Wadi Khalid in North Lebanon, the Lebanese Red Cross has set up a fixed first aid post in Wadi Khalid to assist potential health cases among displaced families.

From early Saturday May 14, and following reports on families flee from Tell Kalakh in Syria to Al Bekaya in Wadi Khalid, North Lebanon.

Several reports mentioned that there are potential health cases among the displaced, for that 5 fully equipped ambulance with 22 first aid workers moved from Akkar Area under the control of the Operation Room in the North and transported sick and wounded to Akkar hospitals.

On Sunday 15th of May, 15 cases of wounded people were transferred to hospital also 12 First aid were established on site. We should add that one dead person was transported from Kbayat hospital to the Syrian border.

Many of those who have crossed the border have found shelter with relatives or host families, and a small number are residing temporarily in a school in Tall Bire.

Coordination and partnerships

The care-taker Prime Minister called upon the High Relief Commission (HRC) to supervise and coordinate the response to the humanitarian needs of those displaced in the North.

Among the UN agencies, UNHCR is playing a leading role in ensuring that the government has the needed support to respond to the humanitarian needs of displaced persons and affected communities. Inter-agencies meeting involving UN agencies, the RC/RC, and NGOs have been called on 5 & 12 May 2011). Sub working groups have been created by the UN on Protection, Shelter/Food/ NFI and WASH, and Health.

Within the RC/RC Movement, coordination in relation to Movements of population from Syria to Lebanon has been established. The committee is chaired by LRC and includes the Federation and the ICRC. The LRC through the EMS volunteers has been very active in the provision of first aid and ambulance services to the wounds and the sick among the beneficiaries; while the ICRC, who has been and remains the main supporter of the LRC EMS department, is involved mainly on protection issues.

Besides the LRC, the Federation, the ICRC and several PNSs are present in Lebanon. Regular meeting are organized between the LRC, the Federation and the ICRC to monitor the situation.

In addition, meeting involving representative from the Prime Minister Office, the HRC and the Lebanese RC have been organized separately.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Lebanese Red Cross established several years ago a Disaster Management committee including several departments (EMS, logistics, medico-social, blood bank and youth).

Concerning the recent movements of population from Syria to Lebanon, solely the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) department has been already activated. 5 fully equipped LRC ambulance with 22 LRC first aid workers moved from Akkar Area under the supervision of the EMS Operation Room in the North and transported sick and wounded to Akkar hospitals (North of Lebanon). The LRC ESM department also established a fixed first aid post in Wadi Khalid.

Date	First Aid workers	Ambulance	Sick & wounded	First Aid on site
16/5/2011	25	6	4	12
17/5/2011	21	5	2**	1
18/5/2011	17	4	0	0
19/5/2011	12	3	6	4
Total/4days	75	18	12	17

On the other hand the other LRC departments that are part of the DM committee, remain on a level of alert shall they be activated to provide more health and care or to distribute basic items (food and NFI) to the displaced families upon the need.

The proposed operation

This DREF is made to cover the running costs of the EMS services for the provision of first aid and ambulance transports to the hospitals in the Northern region of Lebanon for a period of 1 month (6 ambulances; 22 volunteers).

This period could be reduced or extended shall the number of ambulances and volunteers deployed at the Northern border increased or decreased (based on the evolution of the situation in Syria and the number of displaced person crossing the border from Syria to Lebanon).

Apart for the provision of first aids and ambulance services, no request is made by the LRC DM committee at this point of time as the provision of health care is coordinated by the HRC. However, there could be rapidly a shortage of medical personnel as well as of medical supplies especially for the displaced persons having chronic diseases that need to be urgently addressed.

Initial estimations including list of drugs and blood bags requirements have been made shall the LRC medico-social department and the blood bank department be involved at a later stage in the provision of health care through its mobile clinics and the distribution of increased quantities of blood units to hospitals.

Many of those who have crossed the border have found shelter with relatives or host families, and a small number are residing temporarily in a school in Tall Bire.

Mattresses, blankets and food kits to assist the new arrivals have been distributed by the HRC (over 3,500 mattresses and blankets as well as 1,000 food kits each of which is designed to feed a family of four people for one month).

No request is made by the LRC DM committee at this point of time; but initial estimations have been made shall the youth and medico-social departments be involved at a later stage in the distribution of food and hygiene kits.

Emergency health and care

Objective: The health risks of the emergency on the affected population is reduced through the provision of emergency medical services to 1500 beneficiaries in Northern region of Lebanon for one month.	
Expected Results	Activities planned
Health risks of the affected population are further reduced through receiving rapid medical care for physical health problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide basic health services including first aid. • Refer patients to hospitals and other facilities when necessary. • Evacuating the injured population to the hospitals via LRC ambulances.

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 Lebanon: Mr. Sheikh Sami Al DahDah, President, Lebanese Red Cross, Beirut; email: president@redcross.org.lb ; phone: +961 1 37 28 04/05; and fax: +961 1 37 82 07.
- In Lebanon: Mr. Olivier Standaert; Acting Country Representative, Lebanon Representation, Beirut; e-mail: olivier.standaert@redcross-fr.be ; phone: +961 1 34 99 44; and fax: +961 1 34 99 33.
- In Jordan: Dr. Hosam Faysal Disaster Management coordinator, Middle East and North Africa Zone Office, Amman; phone: +962 6 5632101; email: Hosam.FAYSAL@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Mr. Pablo MEDINA, Operation Coordinator Disaster Services Department; phone: +41 22 730 4381; fax: +41 22 730 0395; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

[< Click here to return to the title page >](#)