

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Lebanon: population movement

DREF operation n° MDRLB003
Update n° 1
26 June 2011

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: 26 May to 20 June, 2011.

Summary: CHF 36,849 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 26 May, 2011 to support the Lebanese Red Cross Society in delivering assistance to some 1500 beneficiaries who crossed the border from Syria, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

Within the reporting period, the Emergency Medical Services of the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) has provided first aid and ambulance services to the Syrian displaced in need for emergency medical assistance.

As the Northern border between Syria and Lebanon has been closed at the end of May, the number of people receiving assistance from the LRC decreased in June. However, taking into that the situation in Syria could result in a sudden increase in the number of people crossing the border into Lebanon; the period for this operation has been extended to 3 months, until 26 August, 2011. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 26 November, 2011).

With the contacts from the Belgian Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross, both present and operational in Lebanon, the Belgian Government and the Netherlands Government have contributed CHF 36,512 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation.



Syrian displaced assisted by Lebanese RC volunteers in Wadi Khaled (Northern Lebanon) photo: LRCS

[<click here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Civil unrest continues to sweep across Syria provoking population movements in the country, but also to neighboring countries such as Turkey and Lebanon.

In southwest of Syria, (Tell Kalakh area), families have fled violence crossing the Northern border of Lebanon during the months of May and June 2011. Many of them have found shelter with relatives or host families, thereby placing an additional burden on their already impoverished hosts.

The Lebanese authorities estimated that between 1,000 and 4,000 Syrians have crossed to Northern Lebanon during the month of May. Latest estimated number of displaced people still in Lebanon is 2,497 people (595 families spread out among at least 43 villages in Lebanon, mainly in the East of Akkar Region, Wadi Khaled area).

The number of people entering into Lebanon in June has substantially decreased due to the closing of the border. However, a small percentage of the people continue to move back regularly to Syria, crossing unofficially the border.

Assessments coordinated by the UNHCR with partner's organizations identified the following priorities for the displaced persons: provision of food, health care (referral of displaced to primary health care services and hospitals), protection, shelter, safe haven, and psychosocial support. Food kits, mattresses, blankets and hygiene kits have been distributed to the displaced by several international organizations.

Coordination and partnerships

At the national level, the response is coordinated and supervised by the High Relief Committee with the assistance of the UNHCR. Working groups involving government agencies, UN agencies and NGOs have been established for health, relief and shelter, and protection. In coordination with the organizations participating to these working groups, several rounds of distribution of food and NFI have also been organized.

A committee chaired by LRC and including the IFRC and the ICRC has also been set up to monitor the situation including through joint field visit to the North. Since the beginning, the volunteers from the Emergency Medical Services of the Lebanese Red Cross have been very active in the provision of first aid and ambulance services to the displaced, while the ICRC has been mainly involved in protection.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Emergency health	
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 ambulance.

Progress:

As per the initial planned activities, the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) of the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) provided ambulance transport and first aid on site for the sick and the wounded. Most ambulance transports have been made towards hospitals present in the Northern Region of Lebanon (Salam hospital, Halba governmental hospital, Rahhal hospital, Hiche clinic).

Date	First Aid workers	Ambulance	Transport of sick & wounded	First Aid on site	Transport of dead
14-15/5/2011	22	5	15	12	1
16/5/2011	25	6	4	12	1
17/5/2011	21	5	2	1	
18/5/2011	17	4			
19/5/2011	12	3	6	4	
07/06/2011	5	2	2		
08/06/2011	3	1			1
Total: (to the date of 08/06/2011)	105	26	29	29	3

(The Emergency Medical Services provided by LRCS between 14 May – 8 June 2011)

In addition, first aid in private houses has been provided to people injured on an average to 8 persons per day.

Challenges:

The DREF allocation will be used to cover the running costs of the Emergency Medical Services of the LRC for the provision of first aid and ambulance transport to the displaced from Syria for a period of 1 month.

The operation and budget was initially based on a scenario with 22 EMS volunteers deployed 24 hours/day, 6 ambulance and one temporary first aid post at the border. It was also assumed that the period for this operation could be reduced or extended based on the evolution of the situation in Syria and its consequences in terms of numbers of displaced persons crossing the border.

Taking into account that the Northern border between Syria and Lebanon was closed by the end of May, the number of people coming from Syria to Lebanon to flee the violence has also been substantially reduced.

However, the situation in Syria remains worrying and could potentially still lead to an influx of displaced persons crossing the border into Lebanon. Therefore, the level of alert and preparedness within the LRC remains high and the DREF period has been extended to three months, up 26 August, 2011. During this three-month operation, funds will be allocated both for humanitarian assistance (first aid and ambulance transport) and the procurement of necessary equipments that would allow a swifter and efficient response from the EMS centers located along the Syrian border.

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 Lebanon: Mr. Sheikh Sami Al DahDah, President, Lebanese Red Cross, Beirut; phone: +961 1 37 28 04/05; and fax: +961 1 37 82 07; email: president@redcross.org.lb
- In Lebanon: Mr. Olivier Standaert; Acting Country Representative, Lebanon Representation, Beirut; phone: +961 1 34 99 44; and fax: +961 1 34 99 33, e-mail: olivier.standaert@redcross-fr.be
- 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>](#)