

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MALTA: Population movement

DREF operation n°
MDRMT001

Update n° 01
30 March 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.

Period covered by this update: 28 February to 30 March 2011.

Summary: CHF 83,603 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in preparedness activities based on a contingency plan to provide assistance to some 1,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

On 28th and 29th March 2011, three boats arrived to Malta carrying more than 800 refugees, due to the still turbulent situation in Libya. According to officials the boats departed from Tripoli. Most of the refugees are Somali and Libyans, who came mostly from Tripoli, Benghazi, and Zaiua.

The Malta Red Cross has been providing assistance to those arriving, including first aid and emergency medical support. The National Society is supported by the Federation and partner National Societies, such as Swiss Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross and German Red Cross by deploying their delegates to the field and in kind donations. Malta Red Cross is in the end of process of procuring goods to prepare contingency stocks in order to be able to assist up to 1,000 individuals. The National Society has trained 20 individuals in Restoring Family links (RFL) and Psychosocial First Aid (PFA). Through public campaigns the National Society is making efforts to recruit and engage more volunteers and provide them with adequate information.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will therefore be completed by 31 April 2011. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 July 2011).

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>
<click here to view contact details>



Malta Red Cross representatives were present in the harbour when refugees arrived.
Photo: Nikola Jovanovic IFRC RDRT

The situation

As a consequence of the turbulent situation in Libya, two boats arrived to Malta on 28th March 2011, around 250-300 people in each of them. Refugees came from Libya mostly from Benghazi, Tripoli and Zaiua. According to military information 535 refugees arrived among them 150 women, 30 minors less than 4 years old. Most of them came in families. Most people are Somalians and Libyans, but that boats are confirmed to come from Tripoli. On 29th of March another boat with 250 refugees came, and according to information from the Ministry of Defense in the following days more boats are expected to arrive in Malta.

Malta is traditional place for transit migrations in its long history. As present migration camps have little space to offer to recently arrived migrants. In two days Malta has received



National Society volunteers setting up tent in Pembroke, Malta Red Cross ambulance centre.
Photo: Malta Red Cross

According to governmental information the maximum capacity for the state is around 3.500 persons (~ 700 families). Government is doing feasibility study on potential sites for additional camps (capacity 2,000 people). Approximately 2.500 persons are permanently living in camps on Malta (Asylum seekers and others).

Following civil unrest in Middle-East earlier in February some European countries in the Mediterranean basin experienced an influx of migrants mainly from Tunisia, but also from Egypt. The situation in Libya as part of a broader wave of protests has further led to thousands of people crossing the borders to the neighboring countries. As of today, the total number of migrants arrived to Italy since 15 January is 17,526; in the month of March alone, 11,880 people have landed in Italy, mainly from Tunisia. But precise data are not available.

The Federation's Europe Zone office is following up the situation with the Italian Red Cross regarding the influx of migrants from North Africa. Deployment of IFRC disaster management delegate to support ongoing contingency planning in the National Society was organized.

Coordination and partnerships

The Malta Red Cross is working closely with its National Civil Protection counterparts and relevant ministries. The National Society is in contact with several Embassies regarding foreign nationals in transit through Malta.

Emphasis is being placed on National and Movement Coordination. The Director General had a coordination meeting on the situation in Abu Dhabi, and has also attended relevant meeting in Rome that aimed to discuss the on-going crisis in North Africa and its potential humanitarian consequences. On the meeting it was agreed that the National Societies present will develop and share individual contingency plans on the country level.

Bilateral communication between the Italian Red Cross and the Malta Red Cross is also continuing. There is daily coordination between Red Cross and Civil Protection Department, as well as regular coordination with the Health Department, Ministry of Justice, and Home Affairs, and Directorate of Defense at the Office of the Prime Minister.

Since the beginning of March IFRC deployed one disaster management and one RDRT member specialized in Disaster Management Logistics with the aim to assess the needs of the National Society regarding a potential population movement operation and to assist in developing a Plan of Action. Also the ICRC

deployed one delegate specialized in Restoring Family Link to conduct training for Malta Red Cross volunteers and another logistics delegate for assessment mission.

The Federation's Europe Zone office is in contact with its counterparts in the MENA Zone office, the ICRC and partner National Societies, including the Red Crescent Society of Qatar, Danish Red Cross and others.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Malta Red Cross is ready to provide basic needs for 1000 people (water, crackers, blankets and shelter). The National Society is considering equipping the warehouse with 200 pieces of baby parcels.

The National Society launched a very well organized volunteer campaign, and got 85 quotes for new volunteers. As for now, the number of highly active volunteers in Malta Red Cross is 50. Further to address the situation Malta Red Cross has the following ambulance and relief capacities:

- 5 ambulances (4 can be immediately deployed)
- 1 tent 20 x 6 m
- 4 tents 5 x 5 m
- 5 tents 4 x 4 m
- Field "clinics" with capacity to serve max. 4 patients 50 blankets and 20 camp beds
- 1 van
- 2 cars
- 2 vehicles 4x4 (pick up and land rover)

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Objective: To assist affected individuals in transit or in reception centres with distributions of hygiene items, food and drinks
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide meals, hot drinks, and hygiene items to transit passengers at the request of national authorities• Prepare a contingency stock of hygiene items for distribution to up to 1,000 individuals in reception centre• Prepare plans for rapid scale up of activities in case the situation deteriorates

Progress:

Swiss Red Cross, Luxemburg Red Cross, German and Austrian Red Cross bilaterally supported the National Society with in kind donations (camping beds, hygienic parcels, kitchen sets, jerry cans, family tents, blankets, dispensary tents). As for now, those goods are stored in CPD (Civil protection department) Warehouse.

Together with DM Logistics delegate from IFRC, the staff of Malta Red Cross is working on procurement of goods that are expected to be finished until 29th of March.

Emergency health
Objective: Provide first aid and emergency medical services as required
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First aids teams and emergency medical services fully operational at transit points• First aid and emergency medical services are provisioned and prepared to deliver services in reception centres

Progress: The National Society has set up an Ambulance center in order to deliver and provide services for people in need. The National Society has 4 years of experience in working in refugee camps, and is experienced in the operational and coordination aspects of Restoring Family links (RFL) and Psychosocial Support. The National Society has trained 20 individuals in Restoring Family links (RFL) and Psychosocial First Aid (PFA). Plans to provide training in psychosocial support are also being worked out.

Emergency shelter

Objective: To prepare for the provision of temporary shelter for 1,000 individuals in reception centres run by the national authorities in accordance with national contingency plan.

Activities planned:

- Prepare and create emergency stock for the establishment of tented accommodation for 1,000 individuals

Progress: The National Society has emergency stock of camping beds, dispensary, and family tents for 1000 beneficiaries that are stored in the Civil Protection department warehouse.

Logistics

Objective: To strengthen the response capacity of the Malta Red Cross

Activities planned:

- Establish a warehouse system in premises newly allocated to Malta Red Cross
- Establish and manage contingency stock
- Prepare for the reception of donations in kind from partner national societies
- Support contingency planning and scale up of operations as needed
- Support overall DM capacity building of National Society, including in areas of coordination, communication and information

Progress: After identifying of immediate and long term warehouse needs for the NS, recommendations were taken into account and the National Society started sourcing of the contingency relief items through requesting bilateral donations. Putting warehouse system in place is in progress, stock movement sheets are prepared, and stocks are followed and registered on a daily basis. The National Society deployed DM Logs officer on a contract for 1 month, with possible extension, who was trained by IFRC Delegate in warehouse management, Logistic procedures, and basic procurement.

A communication concept has been developed by RDRT Communication Officer to support the National Society in providing information to the media about their activities. This concept paper also contributed to the campaign of the National Society to engage more volunteers who can assist during the operation. After finalizing the communication concept a plan of action has been also developed.

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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