

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ALGERIA: FLOODS

16 February, 2006

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In Brief

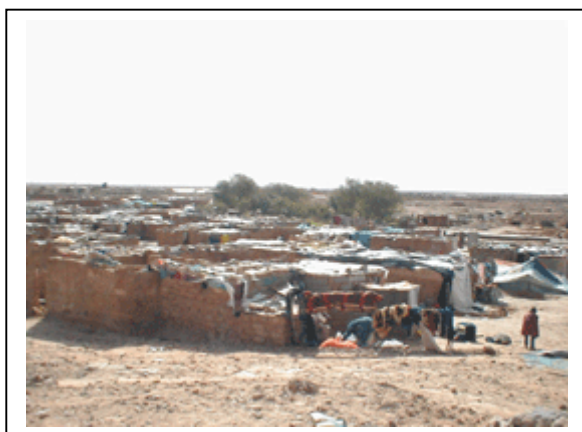
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The Situation



Heavy incessant rains battered the southern region of Algeria between last Thursday and Saturday (9-11 February), leading to the destruction of more than 50 per cent of the dwellings of Saharwi refugees, who live in the Tindouf camp. According to information received from the Tindouf committee of the Algerian Red Crescent, no deaths have occurred, but hundreds of homes in the affected villages were reportedly seriously damaged by the rains. Some 12,000 families are estimated to be in need of some form of assistance, with over 1,000 persons are in need of immediate emergency help. The rains are reportedly the most severe to have affected this region in the past twelve years; damaging hospitals, schools, government buildings, and basic infrastructure.

The Civil Protection authorities from the Wilaya pointed out that the heavy precipitation led to the unprecedented swelling of the Illizi River (Oued) by more than a metre, resulting in flooding and heavy material and infrastructural damage. Several villages in the area around Illizi were also cut -off by the heavy rains, among these Ghadouane, Tin Korha, Sidi Bouselah, and Aïn Kourss. The RN3 road linking Illizi to Djanet was also blocked. Disruptions to the power and telephone services were also reported. No deaths were reported so far.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Volunteers from the Tindouf committee of the Algerian Red Crescent assisted in the emergency damage and needs assessment in the affected area. The national society also contributed the following relief supplies which were sent in eight large planes: 6,000 tents, 62 tonnes of food, and medicines. Additional relief supplies were sent from the El Oued and Bechar wilayas in the past 36 hours. The Spanish Red Cross also sent a plane load of relief supplies to the area, with another scheduled to arrive today.

For the flooding in Illizi, Djanet and Bordj El Haoues, the Algerian Red Crescent initially sent the following from stocks that were pre-positioned in the area: 550 blankets, 465 boxes of clothing, 350 hygiene kits, 300 boxes of cooking oil and 80 tents. Subsequently, a second team of volunteers accompanied a 26-tonne shipment, comprising 2,000 blankets, 900 boxes of cooking oil, 800 hygiene kits, 250 kitchen sets, 50 tents and 50 gas heaters, as well as first aid items (compressed, cotton, serum, plaster, etc)

In both areas, Red Crescent volunteers continue to actively support the relief operation, including the distribution of food and clothing to those in need.

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