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DREF Morocco: cold wave

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation n° MDRMA007; Glide n° CW-2016-000016-MAR
Date of issue: 03/03/2016	Date of disaster: 27 February 2016
Operation manager: Mads Brinch HANSEN	Point of contact : Dr. Mohamed Bendali; head of aid in disaster management department
Operation start date: 02/03/2016	Expected timeframe: 2 Months
Overall operation budget: CHF 186,929	
Number of people affected: 750,000	Number of people to be assisted: 7,500 (1,500 families)
Host National Society presence: 10 staff and 80 volunteers	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Moroccan Red Crescent (Croissant Rouge Marocain)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

A cold wave has affected Morocco on Saturday 27 February, 2016, caused by a polar air mass flow passing from the North Pole to Europe and North Africa, and has generated westerly winds that has brought extreme and exceptionally low temperatures as per the Communications Department at the National Directorate of Meteorology.

The regions of the Middle Atlas and the north of the High Atlas and the neighbouring plains witnessed severe thunderstorms, while significant snow fell over the High and Middle Atlas, the Rif and the highlands of eastern Morocco.



This precipitation was accompanied by moderate to strong winds, and temperatures that dropped significantly, reaching exceptionally low records, particularly in the interior regions of the country and the Atlas mountains. The situation is forecast to improve in the coming days, according to the National Weather Service.

This wave of frost and snow has caused economic losses and isolated several areas in Morocco. Furthermore, electricity was interrupted and some houses suffered structural damages and water supply was interrupted in many regions due to the freezing temperatures. The Ministry of Equipment and Transport was mobilized to reconnect the remote areas and continues to launch periodic newsletters on road conditions and weather warnings.

The Ministry of the Interior, the Royal Gendarmerie and the Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity, have launched a special program for solidarity with population most affected by the cold wave, especially in the Douars mountainous and remote areas. This assistance program was launched in some heavily affected areas as of last week. Several families have already received food, blankets and other much needed winterization, materials and support.

Given the severity of the situation, local authorities and relevant departments have mobilized all human and material resources and have been operating since Friday to assist the most affected population. The Moroccan Red Crescent was among the first responders to bring help to the most affected people. Details of the operations carried out so far is described in the next section.

Through this DREF, the Moroccan Red Crescent will intervene in three regions to assist 1,500 families (7,500 beneficiaries) providing food and non-food items to the most affected women, men boys and girls. Those regions heavily affected by the cold wave are: Oriental, Tadra Azilal and in four localities in Fes Taza. The table below shows details on the locations:

Region	Localities	Distance from Rabat	Needed time to reach the locality by car in normal weather conditions (approximately)
Oriental	Figuig	851 Km	9 h 30 min
Fes Taza	Taza	306 Km	3h 30 min
	Guercif	405 Km	5h
Tadla Azilal	Azilal	352 Km	5h

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Moroccan Red Crescent is part of the national disaster plan and collaborates in its auxiliary role with local authorities, health services, civil protection, and armed forces in the field of assessment, relief(delivery of food and non-food items) provision of first aid, transport and psycho-social support.

Since the start of the meteorological alert, the Moroccan Red Crescent, through its regional and local committees, has been present in the affected regions and communities - mobilizing and organizing intervention teams and maintaining close contact with the central headquarters to report on the changing situation and the assessed needs. First aid posts were established in close coordination with health authorities in the different provinces.

The Moroccan Red Crescent has been active since the initial weather warnings, placing its volunteers on alert. Regular monitoring of the situation was conducted as the storms and cold wave evolved and will continue in order to identify the subsequent needs of the affected communities.

The relief operation is primarily focusing on the Oriental region (Figuig province), Fes Taza region (Taza, Guercif) and Tadla Azilal region (Azilal) focussing on collaborating with the authorities on distributing food and non-food items (blankets and warm clothes) as well as providing first aid, psycho-social support and transport facilities to the affected people and carrying out on-going needs assessment.

In the field of health, Moroccan Red Crescent mobile medical teams have been operating in the districts most threatened, providing not only first aid and basic medicines, but also organizing health awareness and prevention activities. At the request of national and regional authorities, the Moroccan Red Crescent provincial committees have established several Red Crescent health posts providing 24 hours service to communities.

The Ministry of the Interior has identified significant losses and continuing needs, especially in the livelihoods and food security sectors. Under the instruction of the Princess Lalla Malika, President of MRC, the NS, is routing basic food items, and blankets to isolated communities. Moroccan Red Crescent volunteers are distributing food and non-food items in Guercif, Azilal and the NS is preparing to reach provinces that have not already benefited from this program.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The MRC is supported primarily by the IFRC North Africa Country Cluster Support team, based in Tunis,. It is also supported in the operation by the Emergency and Crisis Unit (ECU) and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting (PMER) unit of the IFRC Middle East North Africa (MENA) Regional Office, based in Beirut, have been monitoring the situation and have been mobilising support to the MRC activities and providing technical guidance.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The government is leading and coordinating life saving relief activities. Crisis committees have been established in affected provinces.

Under the royal instructions of the King the Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity has been able to support the areas affected by the cold wave and snow and to work in partnership with the Royal Armed Forces, to help the population of Anfgou , Azilal and Tinghir. The King has also given instructions to the Minister of Health to establish a field hospital in Khenifra, and the Minister of the Interior, through the Governors and Walis, to provide all necessary support to the population affected by the cold wave

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Moroccan Red Crescent acted since the early hours of the disaster by following weather alerts and warnings on road blockings. Since the installation of the Interior Ministry's monitoring and coordination unit, MRC was asked to have its warehouses available at both central and regional levels.

A rapid assessment has identified the need to restore food security and provide material to fight against the cold to affected communities. In coordination with the authorities and all stakeholders and in response to this assessment and amongst the MRC has focused its efforts and resources to save lives, distributing food, blankets and warm clothing for the affected population.

Health:

Due to the confinement of the affected population in their homes, there is a high risk of the spread of communicable diseases, especially given the poor hygiene conditions. This further exacerbates the psychosocial effects of this new unexpected and unprepared for cold wave amongst vulnerable communities.

The MRC, with its highly qualified psychosocial support teams provide the necessary PSS needed by this affected population.

Food items:

The heavy snowfalls have also hindered the people's access in and out of their homes. The affected population are mainly farmers and labourers on low income who livelihoods are highly linked to farms and markets. They are not well equipped with food stocks at home. Hence, the lack of access has increased their vulnerability and affected their livelihood .

MRC aims to support affected people with food items to allow them to cope with this sudden situation. The composition of the food parcel for one family (5 members) for two weeks is:

Item	Quantity
Flour	20 KG
Sugar	5 KG
Oil	5 L
Tea	500 G
Rice	3 KG
Chickpea	2 KG
Lentils	2 kg

Shelter:

Households in the targeted areas are suffering from increased humidity levels and low temperatures from the snow combined with the high altitude of the areas where these communities are located. There is as well an increased need for heating and a high demand for winterization items. This has become very difficult given the electricity cuts and lack of access to markets and heating supplies. MRC aim to support affected people with winterization items (blankets and clothes).

**Risk Assessment**

Risk	Mitigation
The limited access to the areas affected by the snow, the poor road infrastructure are the great obstacles and may impede the assistance effort	Transportation of assistance is being supported by government authorities' helicopters

B. Operational strategy and plan

The DREF allocation will be used to procure and distribute food and non-food items for 1,500 families and to replenish the basic stocks of Moroccan Red Crescent. It should also provide essential services such as first aid health in Oriental, Fes Taza and Tadla Azilal regions. The Moroccan Red Crescent will continue to assist the authorities in the area in the support of those affected by the cold wave.

Overall objective

To provide humanitarian assistance to 1,500 families affected by cold wave in the regions of Oriental Fes Taza and Tadla Azilal in Morocco.

Proposed strategy

As a member of the crisis committee led by the government, the MRC is aware of the various operational changes and gaps as they emerge and has revised the operational strategy to reflect the realities of the situation as it, currently affects communities. The good reputation and physical presence of MRC in communities across the nation enables MRC to reach the most vulnerable – particularly those living in remote communities.

The Government initiatives have targeted high mountains areas in the middle and High Atlas, yet there are some areas that have not been covered. In close coordination with the provincial authorities, MRC will help the populations of the provinces of Taza Guercif, Figuig and Azilal.

Recognizing the context and the subsequent vulnerabilities and needs of communities now seriously affected by the cold wave, MRC is focusing on a strategy that extends the food and non-food item distribution activities; continues psychosocial support activities for the children who are most affected and living in precarious circumstances, and that coordinates recovery efforts in the coming weeks with all partners (beyond this DREF funding).

Region	Locality	Number of families	Number of packages (2 blankets, 1 food parcel, 1 clothes kit)
Oriental	Figuig	250	250
Fes Taza	Taza	500	500
	Guercif	250	250
Tadla Azilal	Azilal	500	500

Operational support services

Recognizing the changing context of the disaster and with new needs arising due to the Cold Wave, MRC will require additional technical support from the IFRC regional offices.

Human resources

A small and qualified team from Moroccan Red Crescent and the MENA Region Office will support the proposed assessment. Program implementation, coordination activities, etc. will continue to be delivered by Moroccan Red Crescent volunteers supported by staff.

Logistics and supply chain

Purchasing articles will be carried out in provincial capitals and goods will be transported by trucks to the affected communities.

Some relief items were delivered by trucks from the national MRC warehouse to the affected areas where the Royal Moroccan government authorities are involved in transporting supplies by helicopters to the isolated areas.

Communications

Moroccan Red Crescent will publish news items related to activities in response to this emergency on its website as well ensure that its actions are illustrated in local media. Audio visual material will be shared with the media as well as the IFRC and other partners.

Initial materials will be shared within three days of the launch of this DREF, with follow up materials provided on a fortnightly basis. Products produced will include news articles produced by the National Society, beneficiary profiles, facts and figures on needs and response, high quality photographs and short videos, as per IFRC procedures.

The IFRC communication team in the MENA Regional Office will support these activities on an ongoing basis, through a specific focal point assigned by the National Society prior to the launch of this DREF.

Security

For security issues, as well as for accessibility reasons, the MRC has been collaboration with government authorities, to distribute and facilitate the distribution of all humanitarian aid to affected areas.

Monitoring and evaluation

Regular field monitoring will be carried out to ensure activities are delivered as per the plan.

Post-distribution monitoring and beneficiary satisfaction surveys will be carried out, with technical support from the IFRC PMER unit. This data may be useful for informing learning and improving future operations as well as complementing the recovery phase assessment and planning.

An evaluation workshop is planned that will have two goals, one to act as a lesson learned mechanism for the coordinators who participated in the response and the second to act a refresher for the people responding to those kind of disasters.



Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Outcome 1: The immediate food needs of the disaster affected population are met (1,500 families)																	
Output 1.1: Appropriate food rations are distributed to vulnerable households																	
Activities planned	Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Identification of most vulnerable families to receive food assistance		■	■														
Consultation with the families to the identification of the needed food.		■	■														
Local procurement, transportation and distribution of food parcels (1,500)			■	■	■												
Monitoring and evaluation of relief activities and reporting on relief distributions		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■							

Budget

[Click Here](#)

Reference documents



Click here for:

Previous Appeals and updates Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Contact Information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact: In the National Society

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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 Humanitarian 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:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**

DREF OPERATION

01/03/2016

MDRMA007

Morocco Cold Wave Operation

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	69,000
Food	75,000
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Medical & First Aid	3,500
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	147,500
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	2,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,000
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	6,500
International Staff	
National Staff	2,000
National Society Staff	
Volunteers	7,120
Total PERSONNEL	9,120
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	5,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	5,000
Travel	2,000
Information & Public Relations	2,000
Office Costs	0
Communications	1,000
Financial Charges	400
Other General Expenses	2,000
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	7,400
Partner National Societies	0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	11,409
Total INDIRECT COSTS	11,409
TOTAL BUDGET	186,929