

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Morocco: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRMA001
GLIDE n° FF-2008-000202-MAR
Operations update n° 2
17 February 2009

Period covered by this Ops Update: 21 December 2008 to 13 February, 2009;

Appeal target: CHF 1,618,182 (USD 1,388,055 or EUR 1,087,585);

Appeal coverage: 7% [<click here to go directly to the interim financial report¹, or here to link to contact details>](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was launched on 7 November 2008 for CHF 1,618,182 (USD 1,388,055 or EUR 1,087,585) for six months to assist 10,000 beneficiaries.
- The coverage of the Appeal remains very low despite the continuous bad climatic conditions and the increasing needs of the poor populations. Soft pledges and applications to governmental funding are still to be confirmed. The budget will have to be revised downwards - despite existing needs - if not more partners are responding swiftly and forcefully.

Summary:

Over the last week, heavy rains in Morocco have claimed 30 lives and forced more than 5,000 people to be evacuated. Rivers rose and houses were swept away due to landslides, causing considerable damages on the infrastructure and agricultural fields across northern and central Morocco. A statement from the interior ministry stated that the recent flooding is estimated to have affected nearly 5,000 inhabitants in six regions. The situation remains also critical in remote mountainous areas of Tadra. Some villages are totally isolated and cannot be reached by road or by air (helicopter) due to bad climatic conditions. According to the authorities in Rabat, 2,252 houses have been destroyed and another 328 damaged, while 80,000 hectares (300 square miles) of agricultural land submerged. Hundreds among those evacuated are in temporary shelter, receiving food aid along with bedding equipment and basic medicine. Morocco's weather forecasts have warned that the rains and the cold wave are set to continue through the coming week.

The Moroccan Red Crescent (Moroccan RC) is supporting the local authorities in providing the needed assistance to the affected community, reassessing its reserves and stocks, planning for dispatching the relief items in key strategic areas, and preparing its volunteers locally for action. The National Society has mobilised 100 volunteers for this new crisis and contacts are maintained with local authorities, both at central and local level.



Mattresses and bedding equipment are provided to affected communities in Sidi Slimane

¹ The interim financial report covers the period until the end of December 2008, as the programme support recovery (PSR) is not yet run for January 2009. As can be seen in the financial report, funds have been received from British Red Cross, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, Libyan Red Crescent and Finnish Red Cross. The Appeal budget remains very valid in the time of writing this report and partners are strongly encouraged to support the relief efforts of the National Society.

The situation

Morocco has been affected by torrential rains since early October, causing 70 deaths and thousands of homeless accommodated in temporary shelters or at relatives' homes. As predicted, the weather did not improve in the country in the last months and rains and snow falls, coupled with an unprecedented cold wave, continued to affect several regions in November and December 2008. The floods have affected 16 provinces of the country.

The worst hit region is Sidi Slimane, located 100 km north of the capital Rabat. Flooding continues near the Mediterranean port of Saida, and volunteers and emergency workers are erecting a dyke and are digging canals in attempts to channel the flood waters towards the sea. The devastation is much worse in the rural areas, where homes are unable to withstand the effects of the heavy flooding and snowfalls.

The exceptional rainfall that has occurred over the last seven days has caused some dams to exceed their maximum capacities. The forecasts are warning the population as the country may not be over the worst of the bad weather, and the threat of further floods is continuing in some regions. According to officials, during the last month, rain levels in Morocco have been at their highest in 35 years.

Coordination and partnerships

Several ministers and senior army officials visited the disaster areas to supervise the emergency efforts. Moroccan authorities evacuated and provided shelter for more than 7,000 victims in the Gharb region. Accommodation centres were set up together with installed generators to supply the communities with electricity. Over 400 tents and 4,000 blankets have been distributed together with motor pumps by the Civil Defence. 200 doctors and nurses were deployed, and 10 helicopters were mobilized to reach the remote areas isolated by snow. 60 boats and 200 means of transport were put at the disposal of the local authorities to assist the victims.

National Society Capacity Building:

The Moroccan RC has a considerable experience in responding to emergencies and in community awareness work. Its operational capacity has been developed through a number of extensive disaster relief and preparedness programmes over the last few years. However, despite the National Society's experience in managing relief, there remains a need to further strengthen its management and response capacity.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Crescent committees in the northern and central branches have continued to mobilize their teams, being also supported by volunteers from neighboring regions. 100 Moroccan RC volunteers are involved in the provision of assistance through distribution of food and non-food items. Relief items from the local stocks were sent to the different sites. Cash was also sent by the National Society headquarters to support its branches to procure and distribute food.

Within the last days, Moroccan RC has distributed three tons of clothes, 700 blankets, and 300 hygiene kits. In addition, five ambulances, two mobile health units, and two vehicles were allocated to the operation. Other Red Crescent branches have also contributed to the resource mobilization effort.

Donations were made available in cash and are used to procure some additional relief items (blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, and tarpaulins) to assist the remote rural population already affected by the ongoing floods and cold wave. This procurement is complemented by the generous in kind donations (clothes) from Finnish Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross.

The regional representation for North Africa is promoting external funding support, knowledge sharing and skills transfer. It provides a constant source of encouragement and solidarity for Moroccan RC staff and volunteers. However, the very limited response to the Emergency Appeal did not allow Moroccan RC to refurbish its own stocks. The prioritized needs are blankets, mattresses, bedding equipment, tents, kitchen sets, and hygiene kits.

Progress towards objectives

Phase I - Immediate emergency response

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: The specific quantities and quality of relief items distributed to the beneficiaries are appropriate. Distributions are carried out according to assessment and selection criteria that identify actual needs and vulnerable groups. Distributions will be based on careful registration and a system/process that controls and monitors, and records the movement of such goods.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Affected families are equipped with the basic relief items to recover normal living conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop with local authorities' beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. Beneficiaries are identified through field surveys (in accordance with criteria in the Moroccan RC disaster relief procedures) carried out by Red Crescent volunteers among the severely affected population. • Provision and distribution of appropriate relief items to identified beneficiaries as required over the coming weeks (as bad weather continues) and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Distribute relief items (blankets, bed/mattresses, jerrycans, and kitchen sets) ❖ Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress/Challenges

The Moroccan RC intervention teams have conducted new assessments in the recently affected regions (Sidi Slimane, Sidi Kacem, Al Hoceima, Taza, Taounat) to identify the needs of the population. The information is shared with the local authorities and discussed within the task forces and coordination cells. Request for relief items are prepared and sent either to the regional/provincial warehouse manager or to the headquarters. Depending on the availability of the stocks, dispatch is organized to the local branch concerned.

Cash was sent by the headquarters for the local procurement of food parcels. 700 blankets were distributed as well as 300 kitchen sets, and three tons of clothes. Blankets, mattresses, hygiene sets, kitchen sets and food items are still needed.

Emergency health and care	
Objective: The health risks of the emergency on the affected population is reduced through the provision of preventive, community-level services to 10,000 families (50,000 beneficiaries) in the 16 regions affected for 6 months.	
Expected Results	Activities planned
The quality of the Moroccan RC health and care services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce/initiate community based first aid (CBFA) activities as soon as possible to create a sustainable community approach through training of 200 volunteers and the provision of CBFA in affected areas. • Provide 500 first aid bags/kits/equipment for Moroccan RC's national/regional intervention helping with the capacity building of the local branches.

Progress/Challenges

Due to limited funding and the decision to prioritize the procurement of relief items, the Moroccan RC local committees and their volunteers are continuing to provide basic health and care and first aid services to people in need. It is hoped that additional funding will be made available to reinforce this crucial programme.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of water treatment for household level, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to affected families.	
Expected results	Activities planned
The existing coverage is assessed with a view to ensuring availability of and access to an adequate water supply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the basic water, sanitation and hygiene promotion and likelihood of water and sanitation related diseases in the affected population. Based on this assessment, procure and distribute the necessary items to treat the water (high test hypochlorite powder and purifier of water sachets).
The health status of the population is improved through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct with the Ministry of Health a hygiene promotion campaign within the affected population focusing on behaviour change and targeting 10,000 people in 16 provinces affected. Provide chlorine tablets and water sanitation promotional material to be used in the health promotion campaign.

Progress/Challenges

The volunteers present on the flooded areas are conducting regular assessments to identify the needs and the gaps to organize an adequate response in order to meet the demand of the affected population. Through the CBFA services provided by the volunteers, some awareness sessions on water-related diseases and hygiene promotion are provided to the families. These activities are conducted in close coordination and collaboration with the local authorities and the Ministry of Health structures.

Capacity Building for preparedness and response

Objective 1: The disaster response capacity of targeted National Societies branches in region at risks have been improved.	
Objective 2: The capacities of communities exposed to risks have been strengthened.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Volunteers at branch level are trained in rapid response, and communities are sensitized in risk reduction through vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct contingency planning training in flood prone areas. Organise disaster management workshops (relief, logistics, emergency/rapid needs assessment, beneficiary identification and distribution methodology). Conduct VCA workshops involving community leaders' participation.
The resilience of the community is improved through better health awareness, knowledge and behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a large disaster risk reduction (DRR) campaign at community and school level, with a focus on the following modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Hygiene promotion. ❖ Risks of water-borne diseases. ❖ Risk of food poisoning. ❖ Risk of landslides, rockslides and electrical hazards. ❖ Recovery of dead animals and their transportation for burial. ❖ Promotion of safer housing/disaster resilient communities <p>The DRR awareness school programme, focusing on floods (experience of earthquake awareness programme) will be used for the development of training/teaching material.</p>

Progress/Challenges

None of these activities were developed or implemented as no funding was made available. However, the National Society is developing its National DRR Strategy and through the confirmation of soft pledges expects to be in a position to pilot its DRR programme in the affected areas. In coordination with the Ministry of Environment, the Moroccan RC has been developing and producing some educational material on floods. Some contacts were made with the Ministry of Education to work in partnership on a school programme. Flyers on floods are currently used and distributed by the volunteers on different sites.

Logistics

Objective: The local logistics and organisational capacity is reinforced.

Expected results	Activities planned
<p>Relief goods are mobilized in a coordinated manner including reception of all incoming goods; warehousing and efficient dispatch of goods to the final distribution points.</p> <p>The International Federation will support Moroccan RC to build and enhance its logistics capacity through logistics and relief workshops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Moroccan RC in establishing an adequate resource mobilization table and relief system with the support of the Regional Logistics Unit (RLU). Conduct a relief and logistics workshop for the Moroccan RC staff and volunteers.

Considering the limited response to the Appeal, it was decided after discussions with the Moroccan RC that the procurement of relief items is to be done locally by the National Society in order to be distributed in due course to the affected communities in Sidi Slimane and Sidi Kacem.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Moroccan RC is maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders. Information is regularly provided and communicated to the regional representation for North Africa.

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:

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[<Interim financial report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRMA001 - Morocco - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/11-2008/12
Budget Timeframe	2008/11-2009/04
Appeal	MDRMA001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	1,618,182					1,618,182
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>	91,777					91,777
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	4,811					4,811
<i>Libyan Red Crescent</i>	5,000					5,000
<i>United Arab Emirates Red Crescent</i>	5,501					5,501
C1. Cash contributions	107,089					107,089
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>	7,483					7,483
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	7,483					7,483
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	114,572					114,572
D. Total Funding = B + C	114,572					114,572
Appeal Coverage	7%					7%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	114,572					114,572
E. Expenditure						
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	114,572					114,572

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MDRMA001 - Morocco - Floods

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Reporting Timeframe	2008/11-2008/12
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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		1,618,182					1,618,182	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	215,000						215,000	
Clothing & textiles	450,000						450,000	
Water & Sanitation	10,000						10,000	
Teaching Materials	120,000						120,000	
Utensils & Tools	215,000						215,000	
Other Supplies & Services	110,000						110,000	
Total Supplies	1,120,000						1,120,000	
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	50,000						50,000	
Total Transport & Storage	50,000						50,000	
Personnel								
International Staff	90,000						90,000	
National Staff	15,000						15,000	
National Society Staff	30,000						30,000	
Total Personnel	135,000						135,000	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	25,000						25,000	
Total Workshops & Training	25,000						25,000	
General Expenditure								
Travel	8,000						8,000	
Information & Public Relation	70,000						70,000	
Office Costs	50,000						50,000	
Communications	10,000						10,000	
Professional Fees	20,000						20,000	
Financial Charges	5,000						5,000	
Other General Expenses	20,000						20,000	
Total General Expenditure	183,000						183,000	
Programme Support								
Program Support	105,182						105,182	
Total Programme Support	105,182						105,182	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,618,182						1,618,182	
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,618,182					1,618,182	