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Operation Update Report

Israel: Complex Emergency

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRIL003 Operation update n° 1	GLIDE n° CE-2021-000062-ISR
Date of issue: 27 August 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: 2 June – 31 July 2021
Operation start date: 10 May 2021 DREF issued: 2 Jun 2021	Operation timeframe: 2 June – 30 November 2021 (extended by 3 months)
DREF allocated: CHF 224,082	
N° of people being assisted: 6,000	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: ICRC, IFRC	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Police, Fire services, local authorities, Ministry of Health, Supreme Health Authority in Emergencies, Hospitals, IDF (Israeli Defense Force), Home Front Command (Civil Defense), Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Internal Security, Ministry of Defense, National Emergency Management Agency, National Committee for Economy in emergencies,	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

Through this update, the timeframe of the DREF Operation is extended by three months (until 30 November 2021). The main reason for the extension is to allow time to finalize the procurement process of replenished items as well as finalizing and piloting the Psychological FA learning platform. It is also important to mention that with the fourth wave of COVID-19 outbreak in the country at the moment, accompanied with additional restrictions, the NS staff are under extra pressure related to other urgent activities in response to the outbreak, which also contributed to some delays in the implementation of the DREF activities.

As for the budget, the development of the learning module is expected to cost less than the originally budgeted amount, and the leftovers (approximately CHF 20,000) will be reallocated to the procurement of the helmets and flak jackets. However, **the total budget of the DREF operation will remain unchanged.**

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Since 6 pm 10 May, Israel faced a complex emergency that escalated during the following days, during which thousands (approx. 4,300) of rockets were fired towards Israeli villages and cities surrounding and up to 170 km from the Gaza strip border including Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Beer-Sheba. The situation got to a peak in the week following 14 May with rockets fired all over the country, massive civil unrest spread throughout the country, and many legal instruments used to tackle the situation. After which, MDA has activated its national response mechanism (highest level of alert) not only at the local branches level (in the areas directly affected by the rocket strikes – 170 km from Gaza border), but also activating on the highest level of alert all MDA branches nationwide. This highest level of alert nationally was sustained between 14 and 22 May.

On 14 May rockets were fired from Lebanon towards the north of Israel for the first time during the escalation. These rockets landed in the Mediterranean Sea or uninhabited areas, activating rockets alarm but not causing any casualties.

Rockets continued to be fired in high quantities until cessation of hostilities took place on 21 May at 02:00 AM. During this whole period, population in the south, center and north of Israel was under direct threat of rocket strikes.

In addition to the rocket strikes, in many cities all over Israel, civil unrest broke out and violent demonstrations took place, during which hundreds of people were injured and severe damage has been caused to buildings and infrastructure.

The civil unrest peaked in East Jerusalem on 10 May and spread within the next days to more cities. On the night of 11 May, for the first time in the history of Israel, a state of emergency and a night curfew were declared in the city of Lod, and the public at risk was evacuated from their houses in one night (all their needs have been taken care of by the local authorities). On 12 May, the civil unrest spread to more cities, also in the north of the country, and on 14 May, violent incidents were reported also in Judea and Samaria, as well as in many locations in Israel.

In the center and south of Israel (in the areas under risk of rocket strikes), schools have been closed, and public gatherings in open places were prohibited. The affected population in the villages and cities in the range of the rockets has been required to remain in the vicinity of 15-90 seconds from the shelters, depending on their distance from the border. Within several kilometers from the Gaza strip border, the movement in roads and train tracks has been restricted.

Since the beginning of the escalation, 13 Israelis were killed and hundreds were injured. MDA treated 799 and transported most of them to hospitals.

On 21 May at 02:00 AM a ceasefire was declared.



Summary of the National response

Overview of the Host National Society

In response to these events, MDA Paramedics and EMTs provided life-saving treatment, psychosocial first aid, and transported the casualties to hospitals. MDA staff and volunteers treated 799 casualties (two critically injured, 18 severely injured, 48 moderately injured, and 731 casualties with minor injuries and stress-related reactions).

As the escalation evolved, MDA has gradually raised the level of alert, from the regions that are in close proximity to the Gaza strip, to those in the center of Israel and Jerusalem, and later, on 14 May, when the rockets and the civil unrest affected other places - all over the country to the highest level. MDA manned hundreds of additional ambulances in preparation for any further escalation resulting in multiple sites of mass casualty incidents, triggering this request for a DREF allocation. Operations centers moved and functioned from bomb shelters (operation that lasted from 10-15 May as the situation escalated further). Bomb shelters in all MDA stations were used and personnel was equipped with helmets and flak jackets (PPE). MDA blood services moved their activities to bomb shelters, collected blood and maintained a national blood stockpile, being ready to supply blood products as needed to the hospitals, and have provided them with more than 6,000 blood components units. All the ambulances were equipped with personal protective equipment (helmets and flak jackets) to be used by the patients transported to the hospitals.

Due to the civil unrest in several incidents, MDA ambulances and personnel were hit by stones thrown at them, resulting in damage to the vehicles and a few MDA members with minor injuries. MDA logistics division was prepared to initiate emergency medical equipment distribution. All personnel was instructed regarding security procedures, volunteers were mobilized and activated to have additional ambulances on call for any eventuality. MDA has published communication materials and informative videos for the public, that include behavioral instructions during rockets strikes, first aid instructions, and information on how to contact MDA when there are casualties. MDA monitored the situation closely and was prepared to respond to humanitarian needs. MDA representatives participated in multiple coordination forums on a daily basis.

The highest level of alert and full-scale response of MDA, started on 14 May, and remained in place also two days following the ceasefire (until 22 May) as a manner of precaution.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all MDA personnel had to wear a face mask during the shifts, and face masks were provided to the patients and casualties as well.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

- ICRC and IFRC ROE were in close contact, on daily basis with MDA, monitoring the situation.
- ICRC and MDA shared real-time information in an attempt to ensure the unrestricted access of ambulances to people in need.
- In association with MDA, the ICRC has conducted a number of field trips to document the humanitarian impact of the rocket strikes.
- IFRC issued press releases on IFRC newswire on 18 May and 25 May.
- IFRC ROE has organized a Movement Coordination Call on 20 May which was co-facilitated by ICRC and IFRC.
- ICRC is planning to provide financial support to MDA to cover MDA's additional costs linked to the crisis which would not be covered neither by the government nor by IFRC DREF support, including additional salary costs, travel and accommodation costs etc., and in preparation for future escalations enhancing MDA capacity to respond to similar emergencies by further integrating and implementing the Safer Access Framework (SAF), notably provide additional training to its EMS staff and volunteers to ensure they are able to ensure their personal safety during similar escalations of violence.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

- The Israeli government declared a "state of attack in Civil Defense" in the whole area 170 km from the Gaza border. This legal framework allows for restrictions on civilian activities and movements by the home front command and gives the emergency response organizations special powers.
- The Israeli government declared a "state of activation of economy in emergencies" on 12 May, allowing the government to order providers of critical services to maintain operations (including obligation of staff to show up to work) in order to ensure continuity of services to the public.
- On 11 May at night, the Israeli Government declared a "civil emergency situation" in the town of Lod (including a night curfew). It was in place until 20 May (inclusive).
- Guidelines for sheltering in place and behavior during strikes were issued by the home front command (civil protection)
- The local authorities were responsible of mental health and psychosocial support, and established dedicated centers and hotlines for the population in need.
- Local authorities were in charge of and provided temporary housing to those whose houses are damaged or had to be evacuated.
- Coordination cells were active at the local level (at the local authority level), district level (by the home front command and police), and at the national level. MDA was present at all those coordination cells.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

As the emergency response phase is over, this part of the report is not applicable.

Operation Risk Assessment

As the emergency response phase is over, this part of the report is not applicable.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

As the situation escalated, the NS had to scale up the response rapidly after 14 May 2021 which has led to depleting the resources especially for the EMTs and paramedics. Therefore, the need to replenish the resources /stocks emerged as a contingency measure to maintain the NS level of response in the future as well as reflecting on the lessons learned during the response phase.

As a result, MDA has requested for a DREF allocation to replenish the following activities:

- Replenishment of Fuel for ambulances that responded to emergency incidents in the most affected areas during the escalation. - **Accomplished**
- Replenishment of food portions that were provided to the responding teams during the escalation – **Accomplished**
- Procurement of helmets and flak jackets for MDA teams. – **Work in progress**
- Development of an online training module on Psychosocial First Aid for MDA's staff and volunteers. – **Work in progress.**
- Organization of a lessons learned workshop to discuss protection and security issues that were identified during the escalation – **Postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak**

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Health

People reached: Data collection still in progress

Male:

Female:

Outcome 1: The immediate health needs of the affected population as a result form the escalation are met

Output 1.1: Increase the EMS response to the population affected by rockets fired from Gaza or by the civil unrests, by adding ambulances to the shift roster, thus ensuring rapid and appropriate emergency medical care in case of injury due to the current escalation

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by First Aid services and psychosocial first aid	6,000	Data collection still in progress

Output 1.2: MDA staff and volunteers continue operating, their basic needs are covered

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of food portions provided to staff and volunteers	4,500	In progress

Output 1.3: MDA staff and volunteers are identified as MDA members, are visible and safe

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of staff and volunteers equipped with visible and safe helmet and flak jacket	75	In progress

Output 1.4: MDA staff and volunteers will be trained in Psychological First Aid and Self-Care

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of online training modules completed and tested	1	In progress

Progress towards outcomes

For each of the above mentioned items, progress has been achieved in the reporting period:

- The number of people assisted is the number of incoming calls in MDAs call centres and the number of casualties assisted by MDA staff and volunteers. The data collection of the number of assisted hasn't been completed yet. Preliminary data indicates around 77,741 persons who received assistance by MDA personnel through dedicated 101 emergency lines, and 21,407 ambulance responses.
- During the escalation, MDA reinforced the responding regions with additional ambulances and other response vehicles. Receipts of fuel has been collected and sorted to include only vehicles that were active in the most affected regions during the escalation. Invoices produced and the amount paid to the supplier. Invoices and receipts for fuel were collected and are being prepared for reporting.
- The staff and volunteers in the most affected regions were provided with food portions during the escalation. Receipts of food portions have been collected and sorted to include only purchases for staff and volunteers that were active in the most affected regions during the escalation. Invoices produced and paid to the supplier. It was estimated that the budget will cover 4,500 portions of food, final data is in processes.
- The procurement of the helmets and flak jackets is pending for the tenders' committee decision and therefore is being delayed. The cost of the helmets and flak jackets was underestimated, and in order to procure 75 units of each item a reallocation of funds is required, as described below. Full documentation for procurement is expected by the end of August 2021.
- The development of the online training module on Psychosocial First Aid is in progress. The module script was shared within MDA for feedback process. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions and overload in MDA, this process also consumes more time than expected. The budget that was initially requested for the development of the learning module was overestimated, and the leftovers (approximately CHF 20,000) will be shifted to the procurement of the helmets and flak jackets to cover the underestimation there.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Lessons learned exercise completed</i>	Yes	Will take place in October-November

Progress towards outcomes

The lessons learned workshop will take place later, as the current COVID-19 restrictions limit the possibility of gathering for holding the workshop physically.

- The lessons learned workshop will focus on the protection and security issues that were identified by MDA staff and volunteers during the escalation in different regions and under different circumstances. It is planned to be a one-day workshop and 20-30 participants are expected to take part in it. The IFRC ROE will support with the methodology and the facilitation of the workshop. The COVID-19 regulations are not permitting gatherings and holding the lessons learned workshop face-to-face is not an option currently. The alternative is to hold the workshop during October or November. If by then it will still not be possible to hold it physically, it will be conducted virtually.
- A lessons learned from the DREF administrative components will be conducted towards the end of the DREF operation (November 2021)

D. Financial Report

The interim financial report is [annexed](#) to this document.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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.

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/06-2021/07	Operation	MDRIL003
Budget Timeframe	2021/06-2021/07	Budget	APPROVED

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 18/Aug./2021
All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRIL003 - Israel - Complex Emergency

Operating Timeframe: 02 jún. 2021 to 31 aug. 2021

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	224 082
DREF Allocations	224 082
Expenditure	-220 896
Closing Balance	3 186

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs			0
AOF4 - Health	213 538	220 896	-7 358
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	213 538	220 896	-7 358
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies			0
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management			0
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	7 029		7 029
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	2 450		2 450
Strategy for implementation Total	9 479		9 479
Grand Total	223 017	220 896	2 121

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/06-2021/07	Operation	MDRIL003
Budget Timeframe	2021/06-2021/07	Budget	APPROVED

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MDRIL003 - Israel - Complex Emergency

Operating Timeframe: 02 jún. 2021 to 31 aug. 2021

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Logistics, Transport & Storage	135 000		135 000
Distribution & Monitoring	45 000		45 000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	90 000		90 000
Personnel	30 405		30 405
Volunteers	30 405		30 405
Workshops & Training	41 700		41 700
Workshops & Training	41 700		41 700
General Expenditure	2 300	9	2 291
Communications	300		300
Financial Charges	2 000	9	1 991
Operational Provisions		207 405	-207 405
Operational Provisions		207 405	-207 405
Indirect Costs	13 611	13 482	129
Programme & Services Support Recover	13 611	13 482	129
Grand Total	223 017	220 896	2 121