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# Final Report

## Tunisia Forest Wildfires 2022

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF operation</b> <b>Date of Issue:</b> <b>Operation start date: 10 August 2021</b> <b>Operating National Society: Tunisian Red Crescent</b> <b>Number of people affected: 1,000 people (200 Households)</b>	<b>Operation n° MDRTN010</b> <b>Glide number: <a href="#">WF-2021-000106-TUN</a></b> <b>Operation end date: 31 December 2021</b> <b>Operation budget: 99,897 CHF</b> <b>Number of people assisted: 0</b>
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation:</b> The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> National Civil Protection, Ministry of Health, Tunisian National Guard, the Ministry of Health, the Regional Forest Administration, and the Commission's Regional Agricultural Development.	

*The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors.*

*The IFRC, on behalf of its member the Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC), would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.*

## A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

### Description of the disaster

Following a series of wildfires in Algeria, wildfires were reported in border regions between Tunisia and Algeria during the last week of July 2021. According to the Algerian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on 14 July 2021, 8,000 hectares of land in Algeria have been damaged by man-made wildfires since the beginning of July.

On Saturday, 24 July 2021, a fire broke out late in the afternoon in the pine forests of Ain Mazer, Sakiet Sidi Youssef district, Kef governorate in the middle-western region of Tunisia. Ain Mazer is a small village located in a rugged area, 18 kilometres from Sakiet Sidi Youssef's centre. Its population makes their living primarily through forestry, livestock, and crop farming. Simultaneously, another fire erupted in Ghar Dimaa delegation, Jendouba Governorate, damaging over 1,500 hectares of Fajj Hessin forests.

The fire destroyed 1,000 hectares of pine forest and continued until the evening of 27 July 2021, spreading up to Touiref, another village in the Kef governorate's northern region. The fire in Touiref destroyed approximately 100 hectares of forest as well as ten homes and farms. This was the second fire accident

reported in the same month, following the fires that erupted on Thursday 8 July 2021, in Djebel Kmim, devastating more than 50 hectares.

Huge forest fires destroyed hundreds of hectares around the military base area in Kasserine (located in the Central West of Tunisia) affecting the neighbouring population.

The Civil Protection units with the cooperation of forestry officers were immediately mobilized to bring the fire under control, supported by the imminent intervention of the Ministry of National Defence, which sent a helicopter due to the landform in both locations that makes access for the firefighting trucks difficult. In some forests, these fires were extinguished in collaboration with civil protection officials and the Forest General Directorate, whereas in others, the flames continue to burn many hectares to this day. Subsequently, it has been reported that 100 households in Ain Mazer (Kef) are under threat, as many of them have lost their animals and other property, or both. Ten families have been made homeless because of the emergency assessment. Whereas in Jendouba, an additional 36 houses were burnt to the ground, livestock was lost, but no human casualties were reported.

The social and economic consequences for these inhabitants are significant, particularly in the case of grazing areas used to harvest aromatic plants for the extraction of rosemary oil. Around 100 affected families in Jendouba no longer have the resources to feed their livestock (cattle, sheep, and goats. Faced with the prospect of losing their source of income, many fled risk areas in search of shelter and are now experiencing financial difficulties.

## **Summary of response**

### **Overview of Host National Society**

The Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC) immediately deployed 20 volunteers and four staff members to assist affected communities by providing food and water to meet their urgent needs. TRC is also coordinating with the civil protection unit to put out the fires. TRC's volunteers provided emergency assistance to displaced and affected people. TRC also supported high-risk communities by increasing public awareness of natural disasters, mitigation measures, and preparedness.

### **Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Country**

The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation in Tunisia provided technical assistance to TRC in the preparation and submission of this DREF request to support the National Society (NS) in responding to the fire incident. Through representation and coordination, the IFRC Delegation regularly engages TRC's leadership and support in identifying TRC areas of intervention, roles, and responsibilities in coordination with Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement partners, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and donors through networking and collaboration through regular meetings.

### **Overview of Other actors' actions in-country**

In response to the disaster, the Tunisian Red Crescent, in its auxiliary role to public authorities, is collaborating with the National Civil Protection, Ministry of Health, Tunisian National Guard, the Ministry of Health, the Regional Forest Administration, and the Commission of Regional Agricultural Development.

Over 100 families who lost their homes in the targeted governorates have been evacuated by civil protection units and are being housed in camping grounds and high schools. The National Civil Protection continues to monitor the spread of the fires and continue all the efforts required to put off the fires.

## **Needs analysis and scenario planning**

The civil protection officials and the Forest General Directorate conducted a joint assessment with the Tunisian Red Crescent to confirm the preliminary status of the situation and embark on registration of a number of households and families affected by the fire.

The following emergency needs were highlighted:

### 1. Emergency Shelter:

At least ten families in El Kef governorate had both their household items damaged and their house structure destroyed. Emergency shelters, such as tents, and household items, have been identified as immediate needs (blankets, mattresses, beds, clothing, hygiene, and cleaning items). On the other hand, at least 36 families in the Jendouba governorate have had their homes destroyed by fires, and 54 families in Kasserine have lost their homes.

Elderly women and vulnerable young people have been evacuated by Civil protection to nearby schools, while a few susceptible affected populations refused displacement and spent nights on the streets. Tents, food, and non-food items, and most urgently financial assistance have been identified as immediate needs.

### 2. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):

The findings from the recent assessment indicated that the fire incident has displaced many households and destroyed livelihoods, including animals and plants. The water sources initially scarce have become limited and impure, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases, with the worst affected being mothers, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and malnourished women and children.

Given the extent of the damages which destroyed over 90% of the infrastructure area, the affected communities are now in dire need of support to provide safe drinking water given this hot summer, together with other WASH services to the community to avoid waterborne and hygiene-related diseases/outbreaks.

### 3. Livelihoods:

As indicated in the description of the disaster, families living in the mountains lived of raising livestock, cultivating grain, and exploiting forest products.

Ravaged by the fire incident, they completely lost their livelihoods, many farmers lost their bee exploitations, and 1,100 animals were also lost (sheep, goats, cows, and horses).

This disaster exposes them to greater vulnerability. There is a need for the affected population to access financial support via unconditional cash distributions to restart their livelihoods to avoid slipping into extreme poverty and hunger.

### 4. Healthcare:

Considering the global COVID-19 pandemic context, there is a great risk for the virus to spread, which would be a double disaster for the affected community. In addition, the contested nature of the location, and lack of water and sanitation facilities make it a perfect breeding ground for potential epidemics as communities might be tempted to resort to unsafe facilities for consumption.

There is an urgent need to enhance these families' water storage capacity at the household level and conduct health and hygiene promotion. Additional protection items are likely to be required to protect affected communities from the current pandemic too.

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### Proposed strategy

While there was an initial strategy, the Tunisian Red Crescent responded with other funds.

### Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective of this DREF operation was to provide immediate basic assistance to address the most acute needs of 1,000 people (200 households) affected by the fire incident in three governorates (El Kef, Jendouba, and Kasserine). This was originally planned to be addressed through the provision of immediate shelter assistance, household items, food parcels, clothes, hygiene, and health assistance in addition to water provision in a 4-month operation.

However, the TRC managed to respond through other sources of funding.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

The Tunisian Red Crescent responded with other funds.

<b>Shelter</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance.	100	0
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		
The Tunisian Red Crescent responded with other funds.		
<b>Challenges</b>		
Not Applicable		

<b>Livelihoods and basic needs</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households whose livelihoods are restored.	100	0
# of households reached with food assistance.	100	0
# of households supported with livestock/ farming inputs for strengthening economic activities.	100	0
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		
The Tunisian Red Crescent responded from other funds.		
<b>Challenges</b>		
Not Applicable		

<b>Health</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of PSS workshops conducted.	3	0
# of people provided with psychosocial support	1,000	0
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		
The Tunisian Red Crescent responded with other funds.		
<b>Challenges</b>		
Not Applicable		

<b>Water, sanitation and hygiene</b>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
#of people who have access to safe water.	500	0

# of households provided with a set of essential hygiene items.	100	0
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		
The Tunisian Red Crescent responded from other funds.		
<b>Challenges</b>		
Not Applicable		

<b>Strengthen National Society</b>		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of volunteers who are insured, protected, and aware of their rights and responsibilities (disaggregated by gender)	60	0
# of workshops on preparedness to emergencies and natural disasters	1	0
# of lessons learned workshops conducted	1	0
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		
The Tunisian Red Crescent responded from other funds.		
<b>Challenges</b>		
Not Applicable		

## D. Financial Report

The IFRC provided CHF 99,897 out of which CHF 461 was spent. The balance amount of CHF 99,436 will be returned to the DREF fund. The final financial report is found below.

### DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/8-2024/5	Operation	MDRTN010
Budget Timeframe	2021/8-2024/5	Budget	APPROVED

#### FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 24/May/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

#### MDRTN010 - Tunisia - Forest Fires

Operating Timeframe: 07 Aug 2021 to 31 Dec 2021

#### I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>99,897</b>
DREF Response Pillar	99,897
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-461</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>99,436</b>

#### II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	55,061	43	55,018
PO02 - Livelihoods	20,448		20,448
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health	1,065		1,065
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	6,071	401	5,670
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	4,473	18	4,455
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>87,117</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>86,656</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services			0
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	12,780		12,780
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>12,780</b>		<b>12,780</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>99,897</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>99,436</b>

# DREF Operation

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

### MDRTN010 - Tunisia - Forest Fires

Operating Timeframe: 07 Aug 2021 to 31 Dec 2021

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/8-2024/5	Operation	MDRTN010
Budget Timeframe	2021/8-2024/5	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 24/May/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>77,900</b>		<b>77,900</b>
Shelter - Relief	16,000		16,000
Clothing & Textiles	11,500		11,500
Food	4,200		4,200
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	5,700		5,700
Medical & First Aid	12,000		12,000
Other Supplies & Services	13,500		13,500
Cash Disbursement	15,000		15,000
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>2,300</b>		<b>2,300</b>
Storage	300		300
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,000		2,000
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>8,360</b>
National Society Staff		40	-40
Volunteers	8,400		8,400
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>2,000</b>		<b>2,000</b>
Workshops & Training	2,000		2,000
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>2,807</b>
Office Costs	1,600		1,600
Communications	1,600	17	1,583
Other General Expenses		376	-376
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>6,097</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6,069</b>
Programme & Services Support Recover	6,097	28	6,069
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>99,897</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>99,436</b>

## Contact information

Reference documents

Click here for:

[Link to IFRC Emergency landing page](#)

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

**In the Tunisian Red Crescent**

Dr Abdellatif Chabbou, President ; email: [president@croissant-rouge.tn](mailto:president@croissant-rouge.tn)

**In the IFRC**

**IFRC North Africa Delegation:** Sami Fakhouri, Head of Delegation Morocco & Tunisia; email: [sami.fakhouri@ifrc.org](mailto:sami.fakhouri@ifrc.org)

**IFRC Regional Office:** Dr Hosam Faysal, Head of Health, Disaster, Climate and Crisis – MENA; phone +961 71 802 916; email: [hosam.faysal@ifrc.org](mailto:hosam.faysal@ifrc.org)

**In IFRC Geneva**

Nicolas Boyrie, DREF Lead, Disasters Climate and Crises (Prevention, Response and Recovery); phone: +41 79 152 5147; email [nicolas.boyrie@ifrc.org](mailto:nicolas.boyrie@ifrc.org)

**For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:**

**IFRC Regional Delegation:** Yara Yassine, MENA Regional Head, Strategic Engagement and Partnerships; phone: +961 813 11 918; email: [yara.yassine@ifrc.org](mailto:yara.yassine@ifrc.org)

**For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting inquiries)**

**IFRC MENA Regional Delegation:** Nadine Haddad, Regional PMER Manager; phone +961 71 802 775; email: [Nadine.haddad@ifrc.org](mailto:Nadine.haddad@ifrc.org)

## 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.