

# Final Report

## Palestine: Extreme Weather Conditions



<b>DREF operation</b>	<b>Operation n° MDRPS013</b>
<b>Date of Issue: 22 February 2023</b>	<b>Glide number: <a href="#">CW-2022-000163-PSE</a></b>
<b>Operation start date: 11 February 2022</b>	<b>Operation end date: 31 August 2022</b>
<b>Operating National Society: The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS)</b>	<b>Operation budget: CHF 350,027</b>
<b>Number of people affected: 3,500</b>	<b>Number of people assisted: 2,543</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) & the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> WHO, Higher Council of Civil Defense, Palestinian Civil Defense (PCD), Ministry of Health, UN-OCHA, UNRWA	

*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 the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.*

## A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

### Description of the disaster

Based on the extreme cold weather conditions that peaked on 26 January 2022, the Palestinian Government has called for “collaboration and common efforts to support the affected populations to face the current needs”. As a member of the Higher Council of Civil Defense, and due to its auxiliary role, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) subsequently responded to the humanitarian needs. Starting on 20 January 2022, the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) was hit by extreme weather conditions including heavy rain floods, winds, snow, and low-temperature cold wave. The Meteorological Office of the Ministry of Transport issued a report on February 10 showing the amount of precipitation recorded to date, which exceeded average precipitation levels (Gaza 104%, and 114% Beit Hanon).

The heavy rain generated floods in several parts of Palestine, affecting thousands of people and forcing many families to flee their homes. The extreme weather conditions resulted in the death of four people due to improper use of heating sources in the West Bank. The weather events have deeply affected local communities, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where thousands of people remain displaced and live in semi-structured or transitional shelters or tents due to the loss of their homes during the recent escalation in hostilities. Uncharacteristically low for the Gaza strip, temperature approached zero at nighttime, while power outages disrupted the operation of heating systems. Furthermore, gas stations in the Gaza Strip didn't have sufficient fuel to supply people with the fuel they needed to operate their own generators. Additionally, vendors providing cooking gas were running low on supplies. Heavy rains in the West Bank have primarily affected the Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley, communities living near the Israeli separation wall, as well as vulnerable communities residing specifically in the

old cities and areas close to streams across the West Bank such as Hebron, Jerusalem, Jenin, Qalqilya, Ramallah, Tubas, and Nablus.

## Summary of current response

### Overview of Operating National Society

PRCS has activated its operation rooms in the West Bank (WB) and Gaza in preparation for the expected heavy rain and snowstorm while PRCS emergency teams have been on standby to respond to emerging needs. PRCS was able to identify and respond to the needs of the communities affected by the cold wave, in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The two operation rooms in the WB and the Gaza Strip have been activated, rapid assessments on the ground have been conducted and close coordination with partners and services providers on the ground has been undertaken. Despite the harsh conditions, PRCS volunteers and staff lead the response actions in the affected communities.

The PRCS has deployed more than 598 specialized volunteers together with technical staff from the Disaster Risk Management Department, Logistics, Psychosocial Support, and Emergency Medical Services departments, to respond during the operation. Emergency response operations focused on the provision of relief and household items, including tarpaulins, tents, mattresses, and blankets, among several other items.



*Figure 1: PRCS volunteers conducting household/field visits. Photo by PRCS*

PRCS provided relief and shelter assistance to 3,500 people affected by the extreme weather. Since the initial response, PRCS has reached 407 families at the time of request as they continued with their relief response up to reach 468 families from the targeted 500 families. (350 families in Gaza and 150 families in West Bank & Jerusalem). The relief efforts will be carried out in coordination with local authorities and communities, Civil Defence, the Red Cross Red Crescent Partners, OCHA, and UNRWA among others.

### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Since the onset of the emergency, there has been ongoing coordination between PRCS, the Palestinian Civil Defence, local and national authorities, including governorates and municipalities, UN agencies, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners. Furthermore, PRCS is a member of the Palestinian National Civil Defence Committee and has a presence at the Governorate level. There are five core field assessors who also serve as focal points for inputting needs information into the online system, these are OCHA, UNRWA, the Civil Defence, Governorates, and PRCS.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is present in Palestine to support PRCS's development and to promote enhanced and coordinated Disaster Preparedness in case of disasters and emergencies in addition to longer-term organizational development, capacity building, and resilience.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) humanitarian response in the occupied Palestinian territory focuses on emergency health and care through supporting PRCS Emergency Medical Services (EMS) on an annual basis and support to the Ministry of Health (MoH), and when needed; non-food items distribution, protection of

civilians and assistance of persons affected by armed conflict, in addition to dissemination of International Humanitarian Law to parties to the conflict and conducting visits to people in detention, as well as water and sanitation activities. The ICRC has supported this DREF operation in the facilitation for the transport of procured items to WB and Gaza.

There are presently 11 Participating National Societies cooperating with the PRCS in a series of programs: Danish, German, Italian, Netherlands, Qatari, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Icelandic, Canadian, and Kuwaiti Red Cross Red Crescent-National Societies. PRCS is currently receiving 'winterization relief support' from the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) & Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) for marginalized communities in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, the two programs will not overlap with the DREF targeted areas, since the previously mentioned funds from KRCS and QRCS will target the families facing a challenging economic situation or families who have had their homes demolished by the occupation forces. Whereas this DREF relief operation will target those who have been affected by the extreme weather conditions in the current cold wave. PRCS will ensure that all assistance is based on a field assessment conducted by the Disaster Risk Management team in coordination with local authorities and community members.

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors in-country**

PRCS held several meetings with WHO and the Ministry of Health regarding support for area C (i.e under Israeli full control over planning, security, and construction) in the areas of health, nutrition, Psychosocial programme support, and resilience. The coordination is focused on intervention with mobile clinics as well as relief support in order to prevent duplication of efforts and promote the division of tasks. Palestinian National Authorities responded to the cold wave by mobilizing the higher council of Civil Defense consisting of 22 institutions. PRCS coordinated its response operation with the national Authorities and with OCHA. In the midst of a protracted occupation and an increasingly perilous humanitarian crisis, the non-RCRC actors carried out the response in accordance with their respective mandates. WHO is the leading health organization in the oPt, whereas OCHA's role is to coordinate emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises.

### **Needs analysis and scenario planning**

Since the start of the cold wave, communities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank were affected by flooding and cold temperatures. The Palestinian Government has called for collaborative efforts to support the affected populations.

In response to the situation, PRCS teams received calls from community members, affected families, and Civil Defence regarding the situation. The teams visited the affected areas, families, or houses, and completed rapid assessments in consultation and coordination with various actors in the field and based on the immediate responses to the humanitarian calls. Priority eminent needs have been identified in the areas of emergency shelter and essential household items. Gaza and West Bank have witnessed flooded homes and streets since the beginning of winter in 2021 and 2022. The lack of proper infrastructure exacerbates the situation, which is compounded by a limited power supply and damaged sewage and drainage networks, worsening the threat of heavy rainfall and low temperatures, putting them under a lot of pressure daily in the absence of adequate coping solutions and resources. Many families had to leave their houses to stay with host communities or shelters and required HH items to cope with their daily needs including safe water and food items.

### **Risk Analysis**

Accessibility remained one of the main operational risks; the assessment teams and responders may face some challenges to access the affected areas due to access restrictions especially in the Jordan Valley and in area C. The response was carried out in accordance with the context specific PRCS contingency plan.

## **B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY**

### **Proposed strategy**

The DREF provided immediate support to PRCS in replenishing relief items already distributed to affected families and strengthening its operational capacity to continue to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs.

The key activities planned as part of this operation were:

- Conducting ongoing needs assessments in response to the evolving situation,
- Procuring relief supplies,
- Replenishing the PRCS emergency stocks that have already been distributed,
- Distributing additional items based on the need assessment,
- Raising community awareness on basic safe shelter,
- Carrying out Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting work.

### Human resources

The PRCS has deployed 598 volunteers since the beginning of the cold wave. Disaster Risk Management, Logistic, Psychosocial, and Health team members were organized and prepared for the interventions and response.

### Logistics and supply chain

Logistic support for the intervention was provided following PRCS procedures to source and procure relief items.

*The table below shows the number of people reached by PRCS from its stock.*

Location	# of affected families	#of affected people	Winter Blankets	Mattresses	Kitchen set	Hygiene Kits	Heaters	Tarpaulins	Jerrycan	Tents
WB & Jerusalem	92	369	396	179	25	76	31	114	2	10
Gaza Strip	376	2,174	405	402	180	184	46	297	63	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>2,543</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>10</b>

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN


		<b>Shelter</b> <b>People reached: 2,543</b> Male: 1,144 Female: 1,399	
<b>Indicators:</b>		<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of households reached with safe and adequate shelter and settlements		500	468
% of beneficiaries satisfied with shelter items received		100% (3,500 people)	89% (2,543 people)
# of households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance		500	468
# of households provided with technical support and guidance, appropriate to the type of support they receive		500	468
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>			
<p>Affected families by the extreme weather conditions have lost household items and their houses are partially damaged due to weak infrastructures and basic settlement settings, specifically in Gaza. Those would require basic shelter items such as plastic shields and tarpaulins to shield against waters and cold winds. While on the other hand, Bedouin, and herding communities in Jordan valley in WB have also been heavily impacted living in tent settings and basic shelters that were partially or completely damaged by the snow, heavy rains, and mudslides. This led to some families' displacement in other safe host communities. PRCS, as the primary actor in the emergency relief phase, has responded to the snow, floods, and cold wave affected people and distributed household (HH) items, including winter blankets (516), mattresses (441), kitchen sets (182), heaters (54), tarpaulins (333), and jerry cans (63).</p> <p>Following needs assessments conducted by PRCS staff and volunteers, a total of 468 affected families were reached with basic household &amp; shelter items.</p>			





Figure 2: PRCS distributing household items to cold-wave-affected people. **Photo by PRCS**

Raising awareness on the basic safe shelter was facilitated through the development and dissemination of social media messages. It is estimated that through this approach over 100,000 households are reached. Additionally, these messages will be kept on file for PRCS to use ahead of next year's cold season.



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

**People reached: 1,755**

Male: 790

Female: 965

### Indicators:

# of households provided with a set of essential hygiene items

Target

500

Actual

325

### Narrative description of achievements

Following the loss of most hygiene items, PRCS provided 325 families with 260 hygiene kits and 65 Jerrycans.



Figure 3: PRCS distributing hygiene kits, jerry cans and household items to the affected people. **Photo by PRCS**

## Influence others as leading strategic partner

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC and NS are visible, trusted, and effective advocates on humanitarian issues	Yes	Yes
Communication work is carried out (social media engagement, news articles, interviews, AV materials, etc.)	Yes	Yes
# of monitoring visits conducted	2	3
# lessons learned workshops	2 – in Gaza and the West Bank	2 – in Gaza and the West Bank
# of community feedback reports produced	1	1

### Narrative description of achievements

Since the Gaza electricity crisis is still impacting the health system, PRCS Hospitals in Gaza "Al Quds and Al Amal" are only using corporate electricity from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the hospitals are using a fueled electrical generator the rest of the day. Because PRCS are equipped with manual automatic switches, the generator resumes operation after a few minutes of power outage, when electronic equipment is not in use during dialysis treatment.



Figure 4: PRCS warehouse management in response to the cold wave. Photo by PRCS

PRCS has requested that the IFRC regional office to re-allocate a portion of the funding to support the fuel costs for ambulances and hospitals.

### ***The findings of the internal After-Action Review exercise that PRCS carried out in connection with this DREF operation are listed below.***

#### Overall challenges

##### ▪ **The local Market in Palestine:**

The main challenge encountered during the implementation period was procurement. This was primarily due to the complexity of the global supply chain, which affected the importing of goods into Palestine through suppliers, the availability of items in the market, the delivery period, and the costs of the identified commodities.

##### ▪ **The poor infrastructure in Palestine,** which deteriorated with the cold waves and hampered access to affected communities.

### Overall lessons learned

- Preparing a draft of the DREF application with an estimated budget prior to any cold wave could expedite the DREF approval and contract signature process.
- Stakeholder coordination must be strengthened through information sharing and frequent updates.
- A map of volunteers should be maintained up to date and shared with various stakeholders within the community.
- Staff and volunteers must receive refresher training in areas such as multi-sectoral rapid assessment, First Aid, PSS, and simulation exercises for distribution.
- The reporting process must be evaluated and updated, and a digitalized reporting system must be implemented.
- In light of the Pandemic, relief materials should have included COVID19 - PPE and RCCE Materials.
- Procurement processes must be made more efficient during DREF operations through the development of Procurement in Emergency Guidelines.
- The specifications for all the household items need to be reviewed and updated.
- A list of IFRC available home items in stock should be provided with PRCS in case they are needed.
- Maintaining the good image of PRCS, as the community valued PRCS's role, response time, and quality of support.

## D. Financial Report

The operating budget and response activities remain unchanged. IFRC provided CHF 350,027 out of which CHF 344,727 (98%) was spent. The balance amount of CHF 5,300 will be returned to the DREF fund. ***The detailed financial report is available below.***



# DREF Operation

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/1-2023/02	Operation	MDRPS013
Budget Timeframe	*	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 14/Feb/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## MDRPS013 - Palestine - Extreme Weather Conditions

Operating Timeframe: 11 Feb 2022 to 31 Aug 2022

### I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>350,027</b>
DREF Allocations	350,027
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-344,727</b>
Closing Balance	5,300

### II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter	350,027	21,281	328,746
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs			0
AOF4 - Health		323,446	-323,446
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
<b>Area of focus Total</b>	<b>350,027</b>	<b>344,727</b>	<b>5,300</b>
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies			0
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management			0
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
<b>Strategy for implementation Total</b>			<b>0</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>350,027</b>	<b>344,727</b>	<b>5,300</b>



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## MDRPS013 - Palestine - Extreme Weather Conditions

Operating Timeframe: 11 Feb 2022 to 31 Aug 2022

### III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>58,333</b>	<b>57,169</b>	<b>1,164</b>
Shelter - Relief	58,333	44,998	13,335
Utensils & Tools		12,171	-12,171
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>		<b>13,587</b>	<b>-13,587</b>
Distribution & Monitoring		9,978	-9,978
Logistics Services		3,609	-3,609
<b>General Expenditure</b>		<b>-490</b>	<b>490</b>
Financial Charges		-490	490
<b>Contributions &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>270,331</b>	<b>253,421</b>	<b>16,910</b>
Cash Transfers National Societies	270,331	253,421	16,910
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>21,363</b>	<b>21,040</b>	<b>323</b>
Programme & Services Support Recover	21,363	21,040	323
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>350,027</b>	<b>344,727</b>	<b>5,300</b>

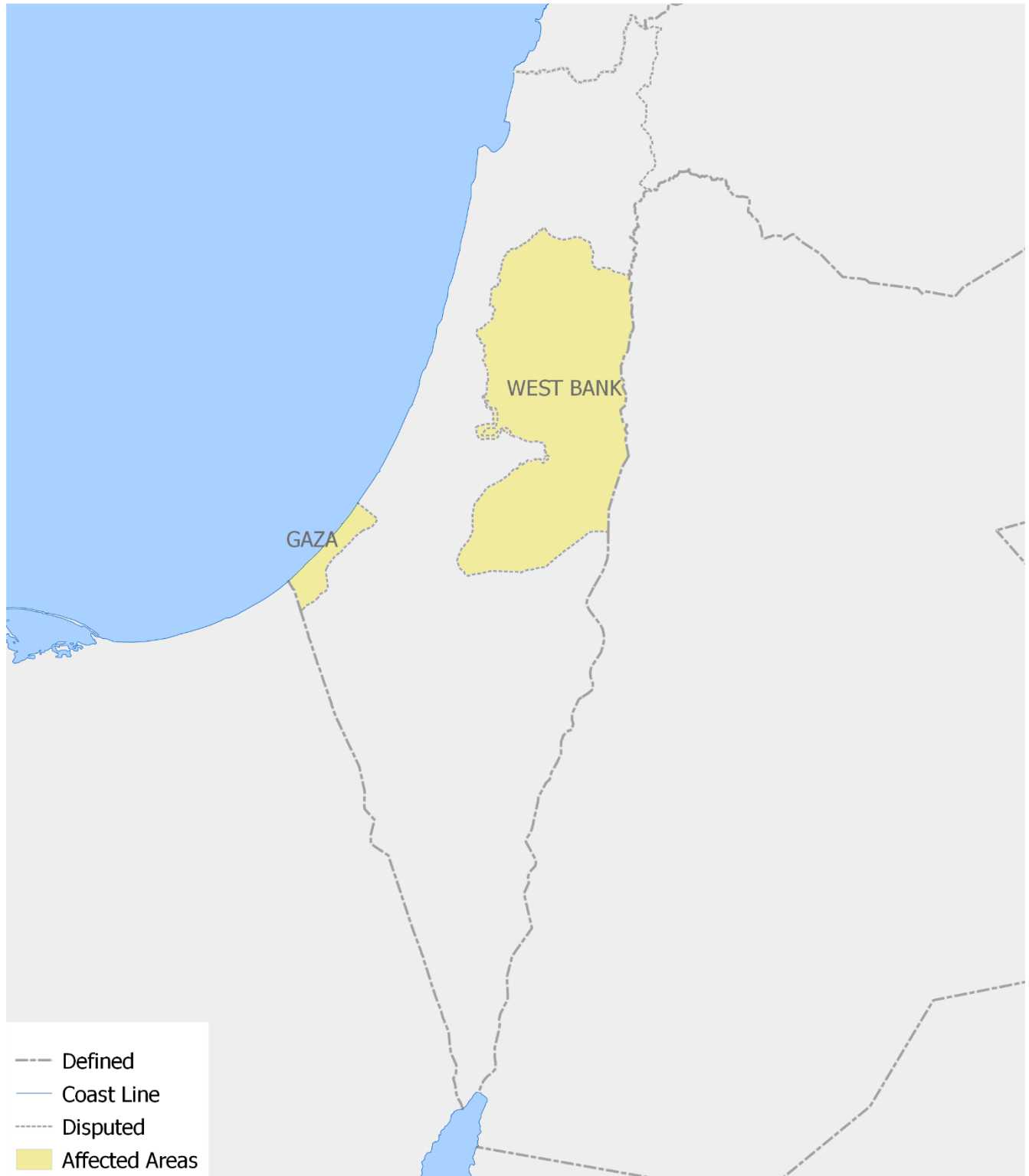


**+CIFRC**

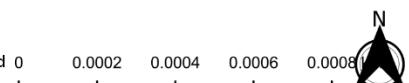
05 February 2022  
MDRPS013  
CW-2022-000163-PSE



## Palestine: Extreme Weather Conditions Disaster Relief Emergency Funds



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.





Click here for:

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

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

**In the PRCS National Society**

- Head of Projects Unit: Randa Bani Odeh, phone: +97 (0) 22 978 520; email: [rbaniodeh@palestinercs.org](mailto:rbaniodeh@palestinercs.org)
- Operational coordination: Mahdi Al Jamal, phone: +97 (0) 59 835 4077; email: [maljamal@palestinercs.org](mailto:maljamal@palestinercs.org)

**IFRC Country Delegation:**

- Faisal Mahboob, Head of Delegation; phone: +972 (0) 59 823 5888; email: [Faisal.Mahboob@ifrc.org](mailto:Faisal.Mahboob@ifrc.org)

**IFRC Geneva:**

- Nicolas Boyrie, DREF Lead; phone: +41 79 152 5147; e-mail [nicolas.boyrie@ifrc.org](mailto:nicolas.boyrie@ifrc.org)

**In the IFRC regional delegation:**

- Hosam Faysal, Head of Health, Disasters, Climate, and Crises (HDCC); phone: +961 71 802219; email: [Hosam.faysal@ifrc.org](mailto:Hosam.faysal@ifrc.org)
- Nader Bin Shamlan; Operations Coordinator, phone: +961 81 131 074; email: [nader.binshamlan@ifrc.org](mailto:nader.binshamlan@ifrc.org)

**For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:**

- Francesco Volpe, Regional Head, Strategic Engagement and Partnerships; email: [francesco.volpe@ifrc.org](mailto:francesco.volpe@ifrc.org)

**For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:**

- Goran Boljanovic; Regional Head of Supply Chain- MENA; phone: +961 5 428 505; email: [goran.boljanovic@ifrc.org](mailto:goran.boljanovic@ifrc.org)

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

- 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.