



DREF OPERATION

Final Report

Greece | Wildfires

DREF n°: MDRGR004	GLIDE n°: N/A
Operation update n° 1: 21 November 2022	Timeframe covered by operation update: 01 August – 30 September 2022
Operation start date: 1 August 2022	Operation timeframe: 6 months (extended for 2 months). Operation end date: 31 January 2023
Funding requirement (CHF): 181,037	N° of people being assisted: 3,500 ¹
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Climate, Crisis and Civil Protection Ministry, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Health, Fire Brigade, Police, Municipalities affected by fire.	

Summary of major revisions made to the Emergency Plan of Action:

The Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) has requested a **two-month no-cost timeframe extension** for their operation, **until 31 January 2023**. The main reason for this request was related to:

- **The finalization of the Procurement process:** Some of the items to be purchased for replenishment were not available in the Greek market. Hence, the Greek suppliers that participated in the tenders had to import the equipment from abroad and could not guarantee the delivery to the HRC by the end of November 2022.
- **Lessons Learned Workshop (LLW) delivery:** The LLW was conducted with the support and co-facilitation from the IFRC Regional Office for Europe (ROE) in January 2023. The timeframe extension allowed the expenses of the workshop to fall under the eligible timeframe.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

By mid-July 2022, a chain of wildfires broke out in multiple areas in Greece: in **Epirus region** (city of Preveza), in the **region of Crete** (mostly Rethymno regional unit), in the **North Aegean** (Samos island), in the **Ionian Islands** of Corfu and Cephalonia, as well as in **Central Greece region** (Evia) and the **Attica region** (the northern suburbs of Athens, and the wider Athens metropolitan region - Penteli mountain, Gerakas, Anthousa, Pallini, including Laurium, and in the Western Attika, Megara/Alepochori). **Eastern Macedonia and Thrace region**, around Evros (Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest National Park) and Komotini, but also the **Peloponnese region (cities of Patras and Pyrgos)** and **Lesvos** (Vatera and Vrisa) were affected. It is estimated that 55,000 people were either directly or indirectly affected.

¹ Out of which 2,500 have been reached and 1,000 will be reached through the contingency stocks and preparedness activities/ future responses.

According to the National Observatory of Athens (NOA), the European Forest Information System (EFFIS) has registered a 750% increase of blazes in just the first three months of 2022, compared to the period of 2008 to 2021.² Although the causes of the abovementioned fires are under investigation by the authorities, they are usually caused by a combination of different factors. Nonetheless, wildfires are often sparked by human activity, accidental or otherwise, which are exacerbated by the climate conditions. Experts widely agree that these climate conditions occur more often due to the increasing impact of climate change.³

Areas/Cities Affected by the Wildfires

Crete: The mountainous area in the municipality of Agios Vasilios, between the villages of Orne and Krya Vrysi, in Rethymno, Crete were affected. Six villages were evacuated as a precaution as the flames came within 80 metres of their perimeter. Strong winds were pushing the flames through agricultural land toward the central road leading from Rethymno to Agia Galini. More than 40 fire engines as well as three water-dowsing helicopters were operating against fires at Orne and at Rodakino, Korakas beach, in the southern part of Agios Vasilios municipality. Fire fronts were active for three days and they were largely contained on 18 July.

Peloponnese - Patra City: A large fire broke out in Kallithea area of Patra city (Achaia regional unit) on **16 July** at noon, in a forest area. 118 firefighting forces (ground and aerial teams) were operating in the wider area, with 35 vehicles, while four firefighting airplanes and six helicopters, one of which has taken over aerial coordination, were continuously dumping water from the air. The fire was contained within three days.



HRC team at Rethymno, July 2022. Photo credit: HRC

Attica - Lavrio City: The fire broke out shortly after 11:00 am in Lavrio on **16 July**, and, more specifically, in the Neraki area. 21 firefighters with seven vehicles were working at the scene. The same information states that an informal migrant site located near the area of the fire was evacuated. The children were the first to be taken away by the fire brigade and moved to a safe location while the adults were also leaving. In addition, the facilities of the Greek Arms Industry, situated in Lavrio, were evacuated for precautionary reasons, as there was a risk of explosion from the fire that had broken out in the wider area.

Attica - North Athens: A wildfire fuelled by gale-force winds raged in the mountainous region of Penteli, near Athens, on **19 July**, prompting authorities to order the evacuation of at least four areas and a hospital. Heavy clouds of smoke were rising into the sky over Mount Penteli where the fire broke out around 27 km north of central Athens. About 420 firefighters assisted by 85 engines were trying to tame the blaze, which was burning on several fronts by late afternoon. More than 24 helicopters and planes earlier dumped water on the flames but had to halt operations at night for safety reasons. Authorities ordered the evacuation of areas of Drafi, Anthousa, Dioni and Dasamari. Residents in the nearby areas were advised to be prepared for evacuation. One hospital and the National Observatory of Athens were evacuated as a precaution. Traffic was halted on roads leading to Penteli and police were helping residents find their way out of the fire-stricken areas.

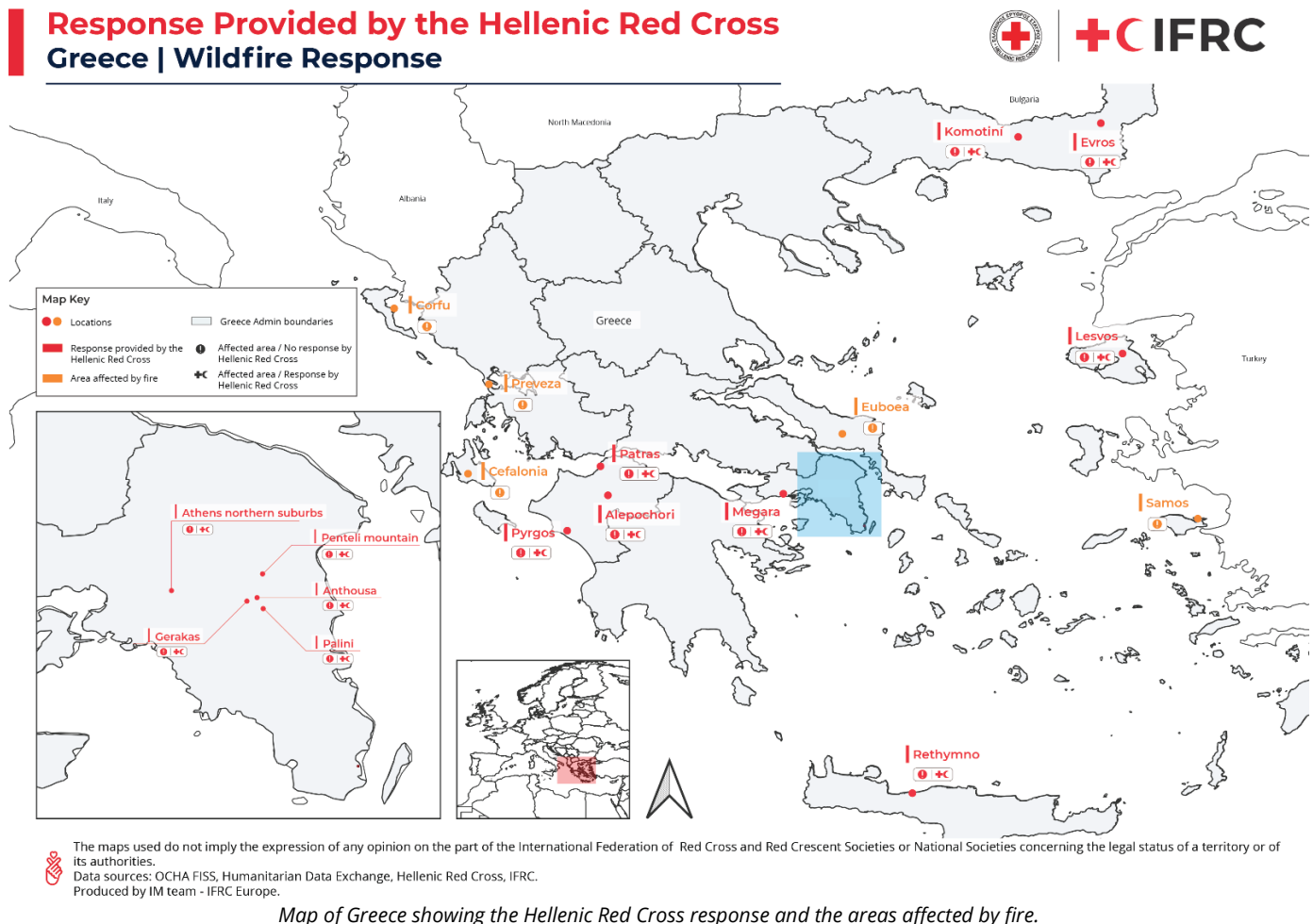
Fire also broke out in nearby suburbs of Gerakas, Anthousa, Pallini and Dioni locations, as well as on both sides of Marathonas Avenue. Scattered blazes were all around the perimeter. According to the government records there were damages caused in the area, both in terms of environmental and community context.

² [Number of Forest Fires in Greece Rises Dramatically in 2022](#), 14 April 2022, Greek Reporter, with data from NOA.

³ [Greek wildfires that the harsh reality of climate change expert warn](#), NBC News, 8 August 2021.

Evros - East Macedonia and Thrace: On **21 July**, wildfire broke out at the Dadia–Lefkimi–Soufli Forest National Park in Evros. The burnt area has exceeded 1,700 hectares.

Lesvos: On **23 July**, fire broke out at Vrisa and Vatera villages in Lesvos causing the evacuation of hundreds of tourists and residents from the Vatera beach side. Fifty firefighters with nine firefighting aircraft were working to extinguish the blaze with volunteers and military personnel.



Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The HRC responded by dispatching volunteers from the Samaritans-Rescuers division of the local branch in Rethymno, Crete, who aided in the affected area. First aid and psychosocial support were provided residents, as well as the firefighters. HRC volunteers have also supported the efforts of the civil protection and local authorities against the flames using firefighting equipment to assist the evacuation procedure of six villages which were in immediate danger of spreading wildfires.

In addition, HRC volunteers provided food, water and isotonic drinks to the firefighting teams and others in need, including fire victims, firefighters, policemen, civil protection personnel, and local authorities' personnel. More than 5,000 bottles of water were distributed.

HRC responded to the wildfires in the areas of the island of **Crete** (mostly Rethymno), the **Attica region**/northern suburbs of Athens, (Penteli mountain, Gerakas, Anthousa, Pallini) and the wider Athens metropolitan area, such as Laurium (Lavrio) city and in Megara/Alepochori. The HRC also responded in the

region of **Eastern Macedonia and Thrace**, around Evros and Komotini as well as **Lesvos** and the **Peloponnese region**, in the cities of Patras and Pyrgos.



HRC team at Rethymno, July 2022. Photo credit: HRC.

The below table presents the timeframe of each HRC operation in the various locations:

AREA / CITY	START DATE	END DATE
Crete	15/07/2022	19/07/2022
Peloponnese	16/07/2022	17/07/2022
Attica-Lavrio	16/07/2022	17/07/2022
Attica-North Athens	19/07/2022	23/07/2022
Evros-East Macedonia and Thrace	21/07/2022	25/07/2022
Lesvos	23/07/2022	26/07/2022

As part of the emergency response, **200 HRC Samaritan volunteers** were dispatched and at least **15 staff** were involved, both at the headquarters (HQ) and the local branches level:

- Operated a Health Station for the provision of First Aid (especially providing eye drops and creams against burns). The stations acted as a semi-permanent point from which first aid, and psychosocial support were provided for staff, paramedics, and volunteers.
- Took part in search and rescue operation.
- Supported the evacuation operations of transferring the fire victims to temporary, safe shelters such as sports centres or to relatives' houses by HRC Rescue cars.
- Relief distribution to assist police officers and firefighters as well as affected residents including water and food distribution.
- Rescuing domestic and wild animals.

Additionally, six - seven rescue cars in six HRC branches, as well as Samaritan volunteers with specialized training in extreme access operations areas were well equipped, trained and on stand-by to support fire brigade's efforts in the challenging situations caused by the wildfires. K9 teams (teams with service dogs) have also received special training from Samaritan corps to support further search and rescue operations.

HRC remained in close cooperation with all institutional and governmental actors involved in the fire response, including the Civil Protection Ministry, the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Defence (MoD), Police, Fire brigade and various municipalities.

While the National Society (NS) has the capacity to respond to country-wide wildfires in terms of volunteers and logistics, due to the spread of wildfires throughout the country and the extensive need for NS response, further support in the form of technical equipment, First Aid (FA) materials and relief items replenishment at HQ and branch levels were required.

At the onset of the disaster, the NS started its campaign to raise funds to support the affected communities' needs. The current DREF covered the short-term needs of the affected population and HRC first aid responders, while the funds raised through the NS will cover the medium to long-term needs.



HRC rescue team in action. Photo credit: HRC.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The **International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Country Office in Greece** continues to support the Hellenic Red Cross in the implementation of emergency operations. The office was established in response to the 2015 migration crisis, as part of a large-scale response operation. In addition to emergency operations, the IFRC Country Office is supporting the capacity building and organizational development of the Hellenic Red Cross as part of their comprehensive organizational development plan, in close collaboration with **Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement partners** involved in Greece. Currently, the IFRC office operates on nine staff in total consisting of seven nationals and two internationals.

The Movement cooperation in Greece is well-established, with bi-weekly meetings between **HRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and IFRC** at strategic and operational level, and regular cooperation at technical level. There is also close technical cooperation during disasters and crises, ensuring complementarity and avoiding any duplication of efforts.

Responding to climate and environmental crisis is a strategic priority of the IFRC, both globally and in Greece, with the piloting of new and innovative activities linked to climate change identified as a key operational priority for the IFRC Greece Delegation in 2022.

The IFRC Secretariat also plays a key role in connecting locally led humanitarian efforts, such as those led by the HRC, with the wider global RCRC Network. For example, the IFRC has connected the HRC to **the Australian Red Cross** to learn from their extensive experience in responding to wildfires as well as supporting the most vulnerable in response to extreme heat. A training on wildfire response offered by the Australian Red Cross facilitators was conducted at the end of July.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Ministry had the leading role within this emergency response. Hellenic Red Cross is auxiliary to state institutions and is an integral part of their response mechanism, since day one of the outbreak of the wildfires, the NS was in full coordination/communication with all state actors involved in the wildfire response: the Climate and Civil Protection Ministry, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Citizen's Protection, the fire brigade, municipalities, and the regional governments which were affected by fire.

Responsibilities of each actor involved presented briefly below:

Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Ministry:

Overall, the Ministry is organised as a coordinated resource system where national, regional, and local authorities work together with local and public institutions and services in preventing and responding to natural, technological, and other disasters or emergencies by utilizing available scientific data. They also inform the public about these issues.

Ministry of Defence is the civilian cabinet organisation responsible for managing the Hellenic Armed Forces, the leader of which is, according to the Constitution (Article 45), the President of the Republic. However, their administration is exercised only by the Prime Minister and the Government of Greece. In case of the increased wildfire response operations within the country, the army actively participates in the prevention and management of fires.

Ministry of Health (MoH):

Within the context of wildfires, MoH assesses health risks during and after wildfires and is in full cooperation with the other Ministries, Public Services and Organizations, in order to fulfil the mission of the Ministry in protecting citizens' health.

Fire Brigade- Ministry of Citizen Protection:

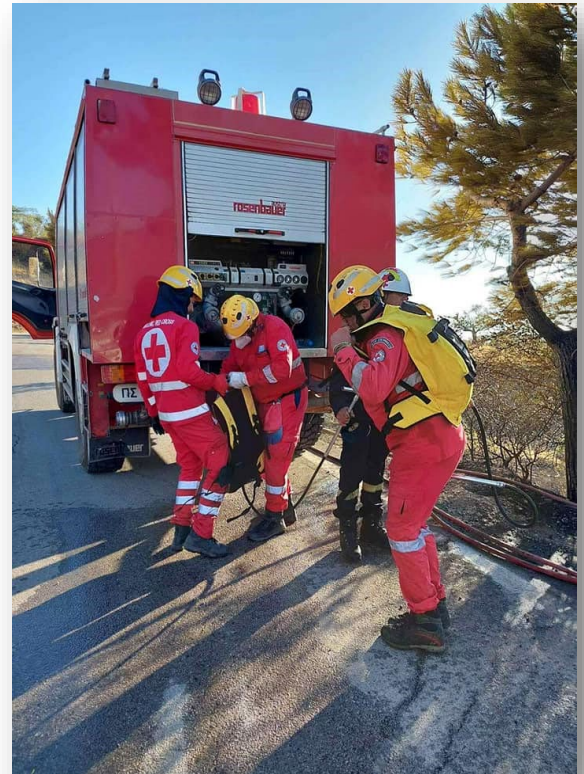
The Hellenic Fire Service is the national agency of Greece for fire and rescue service which is under the Ministry of Citizen Protection. Its mission is to provide safety for the citizens and their property. It operates during fires, forest fires, car accidents, other natural or man-made disasters and during rescue operations. Other duties include the collaboration with the other Greek security forces, prevention measures and information and/or education of the public.

Police:

Within a wildfire context, the police provide support for operational requirements i.e., traffic control, crowd control, fire and incident scene security, apparatus security, and station security during calls for service.

Municipalities:

In the wildfire context, in full coordination with the other institutional responding actors they support with, for example, evacuation operation for their citizens (fire victims), setting up evacuation centres, referrals to temporary shelters, facilitating the relief distributions and, at a later stage, facilitating the assessment of damages caused by the fire and implementing recovery measures and initiatives.



HRC team at Penteli, Attica, July 2022. Photo credit: HRC.



HRC team at Penteli, Attica, July 2022. Photo credit: HRC.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

As elaborated above in detail, there are multiple and continuous wildfire fronts on the national scale. Regarding the assessment of needs in relation to areas affected, the HRC has been relying on the assessment of the Ministry of Civil Protection and responding, depending on its branch capacity in specific areas, in alignment with its auxiliary role to the State response. As such, in line with its auxiliary role, the HRC remains in continuous and close cooperation with all governmental stakeholders involved in the response and its evolution (MoD, MoH, Ministry of Civil Protection, Fire brigade, Police, Municipalities, etc).



HRC team rescuing domestic and wild animals at Penteli, Attica, July 2022. Photo credit:

Based on the available information from the first responders on the grounds where fire had broken out, as well as the information provided by the authorities, the initial needs below were identified:

- **Firefighting:** The main responsibility was with the Fire brigades with HRC supporting the first responders. HRC Samaritans possess the basic firefighting equipment and skills to be in position to have a supporting role when required.
- **Search and Rescue:** The affected people as well as animals have been targeted and rescued. The police and Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Ministry are initially in charge of this action with HRC supporting the teams when this is requested.
- **Evacuation of civilians:** Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Ministry is in charge of the evacuation of civilians, with the support of HRC. HRC Samaritans-Rescuers were accompanying evacuees with HRC rescue cars and transferring them to temporary shelters.
- **Evacuation Centre Management:** These centres are run by the municipalities and regional governments. The HRC supports as required.
- **First Aid and basic medical care:** HRC oversees providing First Aid to first responders and civilians. In addition to HRC Samaritan-Rescuers first responders, the HRC Health division supports with professional medical and nursing staff, and the social welfare division to deploy mental health professionals for psychological first aid (PFA) and psychosocial support services (PSS).
- **Basic relief provision and distribution:** The items have been provided by the authorities, donors and other NGOs, however, HRC has been requested to manage the distribution in multiple locations (mostly water bottles, but also food supplies). Moreover, HRC had managed to collect a large amount of relief items for the support of the fire victims, following its appeal to the public. Respective distributions had been organized in the affected areas.



HRC rescue team in action at Rethymno, Crete. Photo credit: HRC.

The main area of the HRC's response focused on Athens and its wider periphery, due to the higher intensity and scale of the fire, as well as the increased need for evacuation of civilians. These consists of families with small children and vulnerable groups, such as older persons, as well as rescuing domestic and wild animals.

Targeting

The targeted population from these response activities were people both directly and indirectly affected by the fires in the municipalities of Rethymno (Crete region), Pentelli, Palini, Lavreotiki, Megara (Attica), Patras, Pyrgos (Peloponnese) and Soufli and Komotini (East Macedonia and Thrace) and Lesvos.

The focus was on supporting the most vulnerable groups including older adults, people with physical impairments and/or disabilities and people living alone as well as residents of the affected areas and firefighters and police officers involved in the response activities. **Overall, 2,500 people have been assisted through multiple services, out of which 1,500 were fire victims and 1,000 firemen and policemen.**

In terms of preparedness elements, the NS trained volunteers and procured materials to support additional 1,000 first responders in future operations.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective of this operation was to contribute to the provision of humanitarian assistance to a total of 3,500 people affected by the wildfires. This included the **replenishment** of basic HRC firefighting equipment, and First Aid materials used for the provision of respective services during the emergency response operation, as well as the relief items distributed (in the emergency phase of the operation) to 2,500 affected people, as well as **preparedness activities** to support additional 1,000 people with similar services.

The areas of focus for this operation were as follow:

1. Continuous close coordination with the authorities.
2. **Emergency Response** (covering immediate needs of the affected groups) including:
 - Operated **Health Stations**: a semi-permanent point from which **first aid and psychological support** can be provided. Staffed with paramedics and volunteers. Health Stations were mostly set nearby firemen teams, in order to support them with FA services (especially eye drops and care of burns). However, the stations were also providing First Aid services to the residents suffering from minor injuries, breathing difficulties and burns due to the fire.
 - Provided support with **Search and rescue services** as well as **evacuation of civilians**. HRC Samaritans accompanied evacuees with HRC rescue cars and transferred them to temporary shelters (i.e., sports centres) and/or relatives//friends' houses.
 - Provided relief distribution to assist police officers and firefighters as well as affected residents including **water** and food **distribution**⁴.
 - **Rescued** domestic and wild **animals**.
3. **Replenishment**: Procurement of **bottled water and First Aid material**: replenishment of water/isotonic drinks which were distributed to the affected population, firefighters, policemen, civil protection personnel, local authorities' personnel.

⁴ The food portions have been provided by the authorities, however the HRC was asked to organize the distribution mainly to first responders, i.e., firefighters and the police, therefore, no additional cost was requested through this DREF to cover food distribution.

The detailed First Aid items purchased can be found in the table below:

A/A	CATEGORY	QUANTITY (Packages)
1	Plum Wound and Eyewash Spray	550
2	NaCl 0,9%	300
3	Nasal Wash Sachets	15
4	Crème for burns	100
5	Instant ice pack	500
6	Dispotech Freezy Ice Spray	80
7	Water Jel First Responder for burns	230

4. **Procurement of personal protective equipment**, including helmets, masks, fire extinguishers and additional uniforms for Samaritan volunteers. In addition, there are advanced search and rescue equipment as the HRC continues to expand and upscale their search and rescue activities as a significant part of their response to wildfire.
5. **Disaster preparedness training** for the Samaritans teams focused on wildfires response. Conducting training on firefighting for RC volunteers to provide support at local level during the operations. Peer-to-peer exchange through wildfire-focused training delivered by Australian RC, building on their extensive experience in responding to wildfires.
6. **Lessons Learned workshop** was organized at the end of the wildfire season involving all responding HRC branches.
7. **Disaster awareness activities** for the communities affected by wildfires, through social media channels and sessions conducted in schools.



Awareness sessions from HRC volunteers at schools in Crete. Photo credit: HRC.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Health

People reached: 6,200

Male: N/A

Female: N/A

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment

Output 1.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people that received First Aid and Primary Health care	1,500	1,650

Output 1.2: Target population is reached with Search and Rescue activities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people transported to a safe location	300	550
# of people reached with Search & Rescue (S&R) and evacuation services	2,000	4,000

Progress:

- Overall, the operation exceeded every target set by 10 to 100%.
- During the operation, First Aid and Primary Health care were provided to firefighters and civilians.
- HRC supported the services which were transporting and evacuating the civilians into safe places in most of the affected areas. The civilians were guided and signposted by the HRC personnel as where to go and where to find the services who can directly help them with the transport.
- HRC participated in the search and rescue operations.
- Search and rescue of domestic and wild animals continued during the wildfire.

Challenges:

During the wildfire response:

- Inaccessibility to some large areas where fire broke out.
- Strong winds, causing rapid and intense spread of fire.
- Fire starting in various fronts, making it difficult to respond.
- HRC volunteers and personnel feeling emotional strain during the operation.
- Setting up First Aid stations during active fire as they were mostly set up close to the mobile firefighting HQ.

Slow Procurement/replenishment process of safety equipment and First Aid material. However, eventually, all materials listed below were delivered.

- Waterproof shoes
- Reusable masks -full face
- Reusable masks half face
- Uniforms

- First aid material and medication for burns
- Printing material
- Helmets
- Gloves
- Canopy Tents / Health station
- Fire extinguishers
- Search and Rescue tools & Equipment

Lessons Learned:

The previous experience from other similar response situations of HRC Samaritan, Rescuers volunteers played a significant role during the response phase of the operation. However, additional relevant training and preparedness exercises at local and national level will further build the capacity of a larger group of volunteers to support similar disasters.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 5,000

Male: N/A

Female: N/A

Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of water bottles distributed	3,500	5,000

Progress towards outcomes

Progress:

Distribution of 3,500 safe drinking water to first responders and affected communities was planned as well as replenishment of 10,000 water bottles as contingency stock. This number of water bottles purchased was increased to approximately 15,000 due to the cost of water bottles being less than budgeted for.

Challenges:

Large quantity of bottles of water was required to meet the needs of the firefighters, rescuers, civilians, and others who were part of the operation during the fire extinguishing and the other activities.

Lessons Learned:

As wildfires are common to most of the affected areas, ensuring that a full stock of bottles of water is available is essential to be able to respond to future needs as soon as the disaster occurs.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained	100	112
# of staff trained	10	5

Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of LLWs successfully completed	1	1

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 S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues

# of school targeted with awareness sessions delivered	8	8
# of people reached with messages through social media material	1,000	50,000

Progress towards outcomes

Progress:

Training and Learning Opportunities:

- **Internal HRC Training (102 volunteers and 5 staff trained):** Disaster Preparedness and First Aid training was delivered to Samaritans volunteers and staff. Topics included how to tackle First Aid for burns and respiratory issues, how to approach fire, and the correct use of firefighting equipment. The training was repeated multiple times. Overall, 10 branches have participated in these trainings.
- **External Training (10 volunteers and 1 staff trained):** two sessions on "Rope Rescue Operator" training was delivered by an external trainer, one in August and one in September. The training specifically focused on the correct use of ropes during floods that usually follow wildfires. Certificates were provided at the end of training.

Awareness sessions in schools:

In addition to the response activities, Hellenic RC has been focusing on public awareness raising activities against natural hazards and disasters.

Within the framework of this operation, awareness raising sessions on wildfires were planned in the most affected areas and those at higher risks of fires.

Eight sessions have been conducted in eight schools in Crete, focusing on wildfire prevention. The number of students who attended the training was approximately **1,200 from ages 8 to 18**. The sessions were focused on the awareness of wildfire, how it manifests, and which are the steps and the key points of preparedness to prevent and avoid a wildfire. Informative leaflets, videos, photos as well as personal experiences were used during the sessions.

HRC Communication:

HRC developed and disseminated targeted messages and communication through various social media channels, such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter on the HRC operational response progress as well as public preparedness and donation request.

Lessons Learned Workshop

A Lessons Learned workshop was held in January 2023, to offer the Hellenic Red Cross and partners an opportunity to reflect and consider possible areas of success and improvement. Jointly conducted by the HRC, IFRC Greece and IFRC ROE, with participation from volunteers and staff of the HRC (three volunteers from Rethymno Branch, three from Patra, four from Thessaloniki, eight from Athens, two staff from Samaritan –Rescuer Division, two staff from OD Department, two staff from Health Division).



Awareness sessions from HRC Volunteers at schools in Crete. Photo credit: HRC

The main objective of this exercise was to:

- Review and reflect on the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) response on the devastating wildfires and what could be done differently in the future.
- Assess current Hellenic Red Cross abilities and capacity to set up emergency operations in small-, medium- and large-scale emergency contexts in general, and in wildfire response operations more specifically.
- Learn and exchange ideas with other NS responding to similar crises, including floods.
- Reveal gaps and parts to be improved to strengthen future emergency response operations.

Methodology: The baseline methodology of the LLW followed the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) framework, and assessed the challenges, successes, and recommendations of the NS response. The workshop was structured around **the five areas of the PER framework**⁵: (1) Policy, Strategy and Standards; (2) Operational Capacity; (3) Operational Support; (4) Analysis and Planning; and (5) Coordination.

Coordination with other local actors was also in the centre of the workshop, with one of the sessions dedicated to discussing the collaboration with the Hellenic fire services at national and branch levels and the importance of having the necessary coordination framework for working together, including a formal updated memorandum of understanding.

⁵ The Hellenic Red Cross had a PER self-assessment in (2017), including setting up the Plan of Action (PoA) for improving disaster and crises preparedness, and the workshop was designed to build on that basis.



Presentation of branch activity in Crete at Lessons Learned Workshop. Photo credit: HRC.

Challenges:

The awareness raising sessions for school children had to be arranged during the summer break in order to be able to conduct them in September or October, which, due to the summer season deemed to be challenging.

While the session was originally planned in multiple locations/regions, it was only feasible to conduct them in Crete eventually due to the branch capacity there and the fact that other branches were overloaded with other activities during the DREF implementation timeframe.



Lesson Learned Workshop participants for Greece Wildfires DREF Operation by HRC. Photo credit: HRC.

D. Financial Report

The budget for the DREF operation was CHF **181,037**, of which CHF **161,539** was spent. The remaining balance of CHF **19,498** is returned to the DREF account as per standard IFRC regulations.

For details, please refer to the final financial report annexed to this document.

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, 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 National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

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Reference

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- [Previous Plans and updates](#)

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

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/7-2023/6	Operation	MDRGR004
Budget Timeframe	2022/7-2023/1	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 04/Aug/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRGR004 - Greece - Wildfires

Operating Timeframe: 30 Jul 2022 to 31 Jan 2023

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	181,037
DREF Response Pillar	181,037
Expenditure	-161,539
Closing Balance	19,498

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health	181,037	161,539	19,498
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			0
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery			0
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	181,037	161,539	19,498
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services			0
EA03 - National Society Strengthening			0
Enabling Approaches Total			0
Grand Total	181,037	161,539	19,498

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRGR004 - Greece - Wildfires

Operating Timeframe: 30 Jul 2022 to 31 Jan 2023

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/7-2023/6	Operation	MDRGR004
Budget Timeframe	2022/7-2023/1	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 04/Aug/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	118,221	107,567	10,654
Shelter - Relief		1,706	-1,706
Clothing & Textiles		29,562	-29,562
Food	10,100	1,887	8,213
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	2,020		2,020
Medical & First Aid	16,968	8,099	8,869
Utensils & Tools	89,133	8,862	80,270
Other Supplies & Services		57,450	-57,450
Logistics, Transport & Storage	5,050	1,708	3,342
Transport & Vehicles Costs	5,050	1,708	3,342
Personnel		14,324	-14,324
National Society Staff		4,126	-4,126
Volunteers		10,198	-10,198
Workshops & Training	23,268	15,972	7,297
Workshops & Training	23,268	15,972	7,297
General Expenditure	23,449	12,110	11,339
Travel	10,100	9,385	715
Information & Public Relations		1,671	-1,671
Office Costs	3,300		3,300
Communications	5,050	25	5,025
Financial Charges	3,499	427	3,072
Other General Expenses	1,500	602	898
Indirect Costs	11,049	9,859	1,190
Programme & Services Support Recover	11,049	9,859	1,190
Grand Total	181,037	161,539	19,498