

Appeal: MDRPS014	Total DREF Allocation CHF 282,339	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Earthquake
Glide Number: EQ-2023-000015-SYR	People Affected: 40,000 people	People Targeted: 15,419 people	People Assisted: 38,618¹
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 2023-02-17	Operation end date: 2023-08-31	Total operating timeframe: 6 months

Targeted Areas: **Aleppo, Lattakia**

The major donors of the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez International Foundation 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.



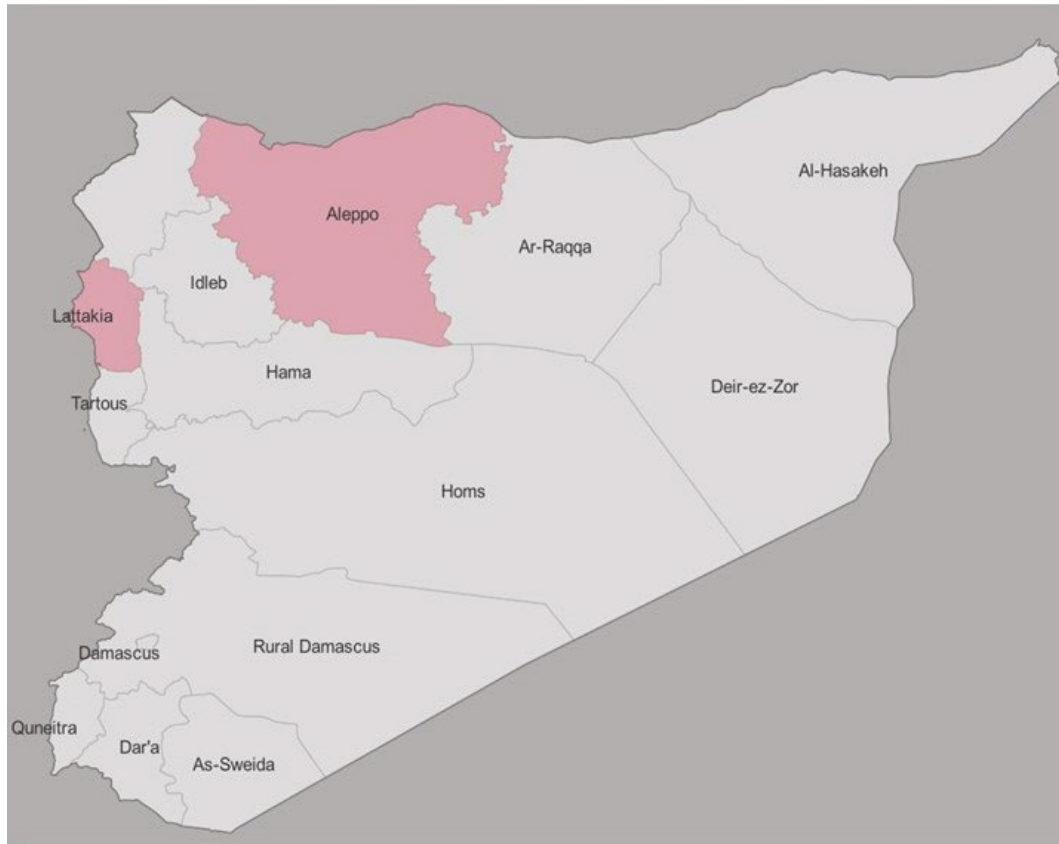
¹ This is the minimum number of people reached by the PRCS Syria branch. This figure refers to the people reached with food parcels. To avoid double counting, PRCS-S's other actions in relief and health/ medical services are not added to this figure. This does not refer to the people reached with resources from this DREF. Source: [Palestine Red Crescent Society Annual Report 2023](#).

Description of the Event



SYR: Earthquake - 2023-06 - Syria EQ 2023, PRCS-Syria Response

February 13, 2023



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on 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.

Map depicting the affected areas of Palestinian refugee camps in Syria.

Date of event

2023-02-17

What happened, where and when?

On 6 February 2023, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southern and central Turkey and northern and western Syria. It was one of the strongest earthquakes recorded in the Levant since the 1930 Turkey earthquake. There was widespread damage across an area of about 350,000 km². The earthquake was followed by another significant tremor approximately nine hours later, measuring magnitude 7.5, located around 59 miles (95 kilometres) southwest of the initial epicentre.

According to the Syrian Ministry of Health (MoH) and UN figures, one year after the earthquake, this disaster had a human toll of 5,900 deaths, with 13,000 other people who were injured in the affected governorates ([OCHA](#) and [Joint Statement UN RC and UN HC](#)).

More than 123 residential areas, villages, towns, and cities were badly damaged. Initially, a total of 10,600 buildings were estimated to have partially or fully collapsed in the major cities of Aleppo, Latakia, Hama, Idleb, and the countryside outside these urban areas. In addition, several power plants, water facilities, hospitals, and public infrastructure also sustained damage.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) reported that 6.5 million people were affected, which deepened the economic crisis and increased the burden on public services and sectors including health, shelters, livelihoods, and WASH.



Three Palestinian refugee camps in northern Syria were heavily affected by the earthquake, Al Nairab and Handarat camp in Aleppo and Al Raml camp in Latakia. The Palestine Red Crescent Society requested the DREF to respond to the situation of the people located in these refugee camps.

Prior to the earthquake, PRCS-Syria already implemented humanitarian actions with the Palestinian refugees in these locations and maintained regular coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC). Following the earthquake, PRCS- Syria was able to leverage its humanitarian mandate to support in the three most affected Palestinian refugee camps.

Scope and Scale

The Palestinian refugees in Al Nairab and Handarat (Aleppo) and Al Raml (Latakia) experienced significant destruction of their homes, infrastructure and places of business, study and leisure. In initial assessments, it was estimated that a total of 233 buildings sustained severe damage and had unstable structures in Latakia and Aleppo. As a result, local authorities initially demolished 102 buildings and initiated demolition procedures for an additional 131 buildings. Thousands of people evacuated their homes out of fear of the earthquake and the aftershocks. With hundreds of homes damaged, populations sheltered in collective shelters, rented houses, or with host families.

The impact of the earthquake combined with the prior economic situation in the country contributed to increasing the already high level of inflation, which in turn had an impact on the available goods and services for the affected communities' response and recovery and food security.

Summary of changes

During the course of this operation, changes were made to the initial Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) due to shifts in operational priorities and contributions from additional partners supporting the Palestine Red Crescent Society branch in Syria.

The EPoA modifications primarily affected the planned shelter assistance, which was initially intended to reach 15,419 people across three Palestinian refugee camps in Latakia and Aleppo. Both the target population and the geographical focus of the operation were subsequently revised. These adjustments resulted in changes to the items to be distributed, in line with an updated needs analysis of the affected population. The initially planned budget for ten tents and 850 food parcels for 2,500 households was reallocated to procure 3,300 clothing kits for boys and girls aged 4-14 years, along with shelter supplies.

Budget reallocations were planned from the income improvement budget line to the shelter assistance budget line, increasing the shelter assistance budget nearly 85%. However, these adjustments across specific budget lines did not change the planned overall DREF budget.

These modifications, combined with external factors, led to delays in implementation within the approved DREF timeframe. The procurement process for shelter assistance was lengthy, and as procurement took place during the final days of the DREF operation, DREF resources could not be used to cover these costs. In parallel, IFRC experienced a delay in submitting an extension request that would have enabled the shelter items expenditures to be covered within the DREF timeframe. Faced with these shared challenges for the timely implementation of this operation, the DREF was used to cover CHF 39,277 (13%) of the PRCS's response actions.

Fortunately, PRCS was able to mobilize support from partner National Societies, which generously provided the additional funding required to sustain the National Society's response activities. As a result of the above changes and related challenges, including those for which IFRC bore responsibility, PRCS recorded an unspent balance of CHF 243,062 from the DREF allocation at the end of the operational timeframe on 31 August 2023. This amount was subsequently returned to the IFRC DREF pot.

Given the importance of the principled humanitarian action implemented by PRCS, the following sections report on the PRC's achievements, independent of the funding source.



National Society Actions

<p>Has the National Society conducted any intervention additional to those part of this DREF Operation?</p>	<p>Immediately following the earthquake, the PRCS publicly requested donations to support its response operations for Palestinian refugees affected by the earthquake. On 26 March 2024, PRCS issued a revised call for support, accompanied by an updated resource mobilization table.</p>
<p>Please provide a brief description of those additional activities.</p>	<p>PRCS-S mobilized emergency response teams to deliver emergency health and first aid services, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), as well as shelter, relief and food assistance.</p> <p>PRCS-S also supported SARC in rescue operations and the recovery of deceased persons.</p>

Movement Partners Actions Related to The Current Event

<p>IFRC</p>	<p>IFRC launched two separate Emergency Appeals for Turkey and Syria, in parallel with PRCS's request for support through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).</p> <p>IFRC maintains a country delegation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), as well as a country delegation in Syria. IFRC actively supported PRCS throughout its earthquake response, in close coordination with SARC.</p> <p>IFRC in the oPt provided strategic planning, membership coordination and operational support to PRCS. For this operation, IFRC deployed an Operations Manager from a neighbouring NS.</p> <p>With IFRC support, PRCS requested CHF 282,339 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support PRCS-S earthquake response.</p>
<p>ICRC</p>	<p>The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) maintains an in-country presence in Syria. Prior to the earthquake, ICRC was supporting the affected populations through access to health care, water and sanitation services, and strengthening food security. Following the earthquake, ICRC allocated additional resources to support PRCS-Syria branch response operations in the three Palestinian refugee camps in Latakia and Aleppo.</p>
<p>Participating National Societies</p>	<p>Partner National Societies (PNSs) supported PRCS's response operation in Syria.</p> <p>The German Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, and Netherlands Red Cross maintain an in-country presence in the oPt, while several other PNSs provide bilateral and/or multilateral support to the PRCS remotely.</p>

Other Actors Actions Related to the Current Event

<p>Government has requested international assistance</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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<p>National authorities</p>	<p>The Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) deployed a response team from the Occupied Palestinian Territory to support response activities in Syria. PICA deployed 15 staff and volunteers from PRCS-oPt with expertise in disaster risk management, emergency medical services, and psychosocial support.</p>
<p>UN or other actors</p>	<p>The United Nations (UN) launched a USD 397.6M Flash Appeal to complement the 2022-2023 Syrian Humanitarian Response Plan.</p> <p>UNRWA launched its Syria earthquake response appeal for USD 15M, focusing on the emergency needs of Palestinian refugees in Syria. UNRWA provided in-kind food assistance, WASH, non-food items, emergency health, education in emergencies, and protection and social services. UNRWA also provided emergency financial support to earthquake-displaced households to support rental subsidies and housing.</p> <p>The WHO launched a USD 43M appeal to scale up the health response in Syria and Türkiye.</p> <p>The WFP also established a donation line on its website to support food assistance for affected households.</p>

Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?

The PRCS-S branch was established in 1968 and is mandated to support the Palestinian refugee communities residing in camps across Syria. The PRCS-S branch maintains a strong presence in Damascus, Latakia, Aleppo and Hama, and provides medical and health-care services through its hospitals, clinics and medical points. PRCS-S is supported by approximately 600 trained and active volunteers who implement activities within the camps aimed at enhancing the well-being of its residents, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programs and community development initiatives.

PRCS-S has made significant strides in strengthening collaborations with Movement partners in Syria. The CEO of PRCS-S regularly participates in SARC - led Movement coordination meetings, ensuring effective alignment and information sharing. PRCS-S successfully organized Movement partners meeting, primarily involving partners operating within Syria. Additionally, PRCS-S conducted several bilateral meetings with potential Movement partners, fostering relationships and exploring avenues for future collaborations.



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing and Settlements

The earthquake caused significant damage to buildings and infrastructures in Latakia and Aleppo. A total of 233 buildings in these two governorates were assessed as severely damaged and structurally unstable. As a result, local authorities initially demolished 102 buildings and initiated demolition procedures for an additional 131 buildings. Thousands of people evacuated their homes due to the earthquake and subsequent aftershocks. With hundreds of houses damaged, affected populations sought temporary shelter in collective centres, rented accommodation, or with host families.

Many households lost their homes, properties, sources of their livelihoods, and depleted their savings. This part of the affected population was challenged to recover and return to their previous living conditions.

Earthquake-affected people, including the households that had taken in people who had lost their homes, required housing and shelter items. PRCS-S identified priority needs for mattresses, mats, and blankets, as well as the provision of clothing kits.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This operation had the objective to meet the urgent shelter needs of 15,419 earthquake-affected people in the three Palestinian camps in Al Nairab and Handarat (Aleppo) and Al Raml (Latakia).

Operation strategy rationale

The original plan was to purchase ten tents to accommodate the affected population, as well as to purchase 850 food parcels to be distributed to 2,500 households affected by the earthquake. Following contributions from various PRCS-S partners and the revision of PRCS-S operational priorities based on the conducted assessment of both short- and long-term needs, this plan was adjusted. The revised approach replaced the procurement of ten tents and 850 food parcels with 3,300 clothing kits for boys and girls aged 4 - 14 years, in addition to the provision of shelter-related supplies to affected households.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The first DREF Operational update indicated that 3,000 affected households, representing 15,419 people, in three Palestinian refugee camps: Handarat, Nairab camps in Aleppo and al- Raml camp in Latakia, were targeted by the operation. The response focused on the affected communities' needs with the space for adjustments based on assessments.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

PRCS prioritized assistance for populations facing the highest levels of vulnerability, including households that had lost their homes and were residing in collective shelters or with host families, female-headed households themselves, large families (more than seven members), older persons, and households with persons with disabilities (PwD) and/or chronic illnesses.

This targeting approach covered a total of 15,419 people, including 6,578 people in Al Raml camp in Latakia, 8,035 people in Nairab camp and 806 people in Handarat camp in Aleppo.



Total Assisted Population

Women:	5,009	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	3,034		
Men:	4,275	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	3,101		
People with disabilities (estimated)	3.30%		
Total targeted population:		15,419	

Risk and security considerations

Risk	Mitigation action
Lack of clean water and damage to health facility could result in the spread of waterborne and respiratory diseases and epidemics.	Continuous assessment and monitoring of the epidemic situation inside the shelters.
The depreciation of the local currency and inflation in prices of services and goods.	The Syrian government in an effort to secure support from international organizations granted a different exchange rate for the earthquake operation in Syria, which exceeded the standard rate.
Increased protection risks among the vulnerable groups of the affected population.	Strong focus on Protection, Gender and inclusion (PGI). The IFRC MENA regional office, jointly with PRCS team in Syria conducted Safeguarding risk analysis.
The tremors will continue with great intensities, with a devastating effect, and they will occur in other regions and the inability to maintain the services.	If this occurred, there was a plan to extend the time frame, expand the operation's scope and adjust the strategy.

Security and safety concerns for this operation

At the time of the earthquake, Syria was experiencing the one of the largest and most complex humanitarian emergencies at the global level. The earthquake further compounded humanitarian needs, which were particularly acute among Palestinian refugee communities living in the camps. This response operation was implemented with due consideration of the security environment and broader context, in line with PRCS-S guidelines, mechanisms and procedures.



Implementation

	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 25,560
		Targeted Persons	2
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of deployments in support of the operation	2	1	

Narrative description of achievements

- Deployment of an Operations Manager for three months.
- Deployment of a Finance in Emergencies resource for one month.
- Two monitoring visits to the affected areas.

As part of the earthquake response operation, IFRC deployed an Operations Manager for a 2.5-month period (February to April 2023) to strengthen coordination and support the effective implementation of emergency response activities. As a lesson learnt, IFRC will ensure the alignment the profile deployed with the operational concerns and priorities of the National Society headquarters and the branch in Syria. IFRC will also continue to ensure regular check-ins during deployments.

In addition, a Finance in Emergencies position was deployed for one month to facilitate rapid financial processes and compliance during the critical early phase of the response; this is a standard role required at the start of all operations.

To monitor progress and assess the impact of interventions, two field visits were conducted in the affected areas, ensuring accountability and alignment with operational objectives. One IFRC staff member conducted a monitoring visit to Syria in May 2023. As a lesson learnt, future mission reports should be shared with the PRCS (headquarters and in Syria) and at the operational level in the IFRC. These should indicate potential risks or offer mitigation measures.

Lessons Learnt

A key lesson from the earthquake response operation was the need to strengthen coordination among various stakeholders involved.


While significant efforts were made to deploy specialized personnel and conduct monitoring visits, challenges in communication and alignment between various stakeholders led to delays in decision-making and implementation.. Based on PRCS feedback, IFRC needs to ensure that profiles deployed reflect the precise needs of the National Society. Additionally, IFRC mission reports must include an analysis of observed risks and offer mitigation measures as appropriate.

This highlights the importance of establishing clear coordination mechanisms, roles and communication lines at an early stage of the response to ensure timely and efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance

Challenges

To mitigate similar challenges in future operations, it is recommended that clear coordination mechanisms be established from the outset, with well-defined roles and responsibilities for all involved actors. Regular information-sharing platforms and joint planning sessions should be instituted to ensure alignment and facilitate timely decision-making. In addition, introducing a centralized coordination structure between the PRCS HQ in Palestine, the IFRC country delegation in Palestine, the PRCS in Syria, IFRC regional office and the surge capacity deployed can help streamline communication and reduce delays in operational execution.



	Shelter Housing and Settlements	Budget	CHF 209,055
		Targeted Persons	15,419
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of people reached with safe and adequate shelter and settlements	15,419	15,000 people (2,500 households)	
# of blankets distributed	2,500	2,500	
# of mattresses distributed	2,500	2,500	
# of mats distributed	2,500	2,500	
# of clothes kits distributed	3,300	2,500	

Narrative description of achievements

- Provision of 2,500 blankets
- Provision of 2,500 mattresses
- Provision of 2,500 mats
- Provision of 2,500 clothing kits

PRCS met the essential household needs of the targeted population through the distribution of core relief items. A total of 2,500 blankets were provided; each blanket was made of a half wool-half synthetic blend and weighed between 1,800 and 2,300 grams to ensure adequate warmth and durability. In addition, 2,500 mattresses with a thickness of 10 cm and 2,500 mats measuring 270 x180 cm were distributed to improve living conditions for affected households. To address clothing needs, 2,500 culturally appropriate clothing kits were distributed for children, including 1,250 kits for boys and 1,250 kits for girls. Each kit included underwear, jeans, summer shirts or blouses, sports shoes, and socks, and was packed in storage boxes to ensure suitability and dignity for the targeted populations. The number of households reached was calculated based on an average household size of six people in Syria.

Lessons Learnt


The distribution of these items highlighted several key lessons. Clear technical specifications, such as the weight and material of blankets and standardized dimensions for mats and mattresses, as well as framework agreements could be developed for local procurement. In this manner, logistics process could be simplified. The cultural appropriateness in clothing enhanced acceptance and preserved the dignity of the boys and girls reached.

Delays in the procurement process resulted in costs that could not be covered within the DREF budget, while the absence of timely communication by the National Society and the IFRC teams to request an extension further compounded these challenges. Overall, these experiences reinforced the importance of strengthened planning, coordination, and proactive communication to support more effective operations.

Challenges

To improve future procurement processes, it is recommended to establish clear timelines and strengthen coordination between the IFRC Operations Manager and the regional team members (including the DREF focal point and finance), as well as, where relevant, with the Palestine Country Delegation to ensure direct communication with the PRCS headquarters. It could be useful to ensure that all rapid response staff understand the protocol for immediate communication when extensions are required, which will help avoid funding gaps and operational disruptions. Collectively, these measures will enhance efficiency, reduce operational risks, and support the timely delivery of essential items to targeted populations.



	National Society Strengthening	Budget	CHF 47,724
		Targeted Persons	300
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of PRCS staff and volunteers provided with the required technical and financial support	300	500	
# of Lessons Learned Workshop conducted	0	1	

Narrative description of achievements

- Under DREF 300 volunteer will be covered.
- DREF budget covered PRCS-S comms, transport and fuel cost
- DREF budget revision includes PRCS Volunteer insurance coverage

This DREF supported the PRCS-S's staff costs related to this operation. PRCS-S mobilized its emergency response teams, including 55 medical personnel, three MHPSS units and three ambulances. In addition, PRCS-S deployed a PMER staff member to strengthen local capacity and produce periodic field reports.

Overall, PRCS-S mobilized 300 staff and volunteers, with part of the DREF budget allocated to the IFRC Volunteer Insurance policy. Other funds provided per diems to permit the mobilisation of volunteers, who were themselves affected by this earthquake.

The remaining of the above was not completed due to several factors. There was insufficient time allocated to properly address the requirements within the given timeframe. Additionally, competing priorities and urgent matters took precedence, making it impractical to conduct the lessons-learned workshop.

Lessons Learnt

The main lesson from this operation is the importance of early planning and prioritization of both operational and non-operational activities. While core objectives were achieved with PRCS mobilising other funds, secondary components were delayed due to time constraints. This underscores the need to better integrate these activities into the initial operational timeline.

Challenges

To mitigate similar challenges in future operations, IFRC should work closely at the country and regional levels, in addition to the ongoing coordination with the National Society. Early coordination and proactive communication are essential to ensure the timely implementation of all planned components.



DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/02-2025/10	Operation	MDRPS014
Budget Timeframe	2023/02-2025/10	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 26/Nov/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRPS014 - Palestine - Syria EQ 2023, PRCS-Syria Response

Operating Timeframe: 17 Feb 2023 to 31 Aug 2023

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	282,339
DREF Response Pillar	282,339
Expenditure	-39,277
Closing Balance	243,062

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	121,410	17,672	103,738
PO02 - Livelihoods	48,191		48,191
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health			0
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	0
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	169,601	17,672	151,929
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	25,560	9,316	16,244
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	87,178	12,289	74,889
Enabling Approaches Total	112,738	21,605	91,133
Grand Total	282,339	39,277	243,062

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/02-2025/10	Operation	MDRPS014
Budget Timeframe	2023/02-2025/10	Budget	APPROVED

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III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Personnel	24,000	5,386	18,614
International Staff		6,611	-6,611
National Staff	24,000	-1,225	25,225
General Expenditure		14,900	-14,900
Travel		2,197	-2,197
Financial Charges		310	-310
Other General Expenditure		11,539	-11,539
Shared Office and Services Costs		854	-854
Contributions & Transfers	241,107	16,594	224,513
Cash Transfers National Societies	241,107	16,594	224,513
Indirect Costs	17,232	2,397	14,835
Programme & Services Support Recover	17,232	2,397	14,835
Grand Total	282,339	39,277	243,062

Contact Information

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

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