

Operation Update Report

Algeria: Forest Wildfires

DREF Operation n° MDRDZ008	GLIDE n° FR-2022-000297-DZA
Operation update n° 01; date of issue: 21/03/2023	Timeframe covered by this update: 4 months
Operation start date: 05/09/2022	Operation timeframe: initially 4 months, extended for an additional one month, end date 28 February 2023
Funding requirements (CHF): 369,864	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 369,864
N° of people being assisted: 6,000	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National Algerian Army & National Civil Protection authorities.	

To date, the ARC has been implementing the operation according to the current strategy outlined in the DREF EPoA, with the aim to replenish emergency items mobilized immediately to support the affected population.

This operation update informs on the extension of the implementation timeframe until **28 February 2023** due to the following:

- **Rescheduling the DREF training and the Lessons Learned workshop in February**, due to the unavailability of the concerned staff engaged with the winterization campaign during December and January.
- **Based on the needs assessment**, ARC decided to replace:
 1. 1,000 clothing kits covered by this DREF operation by School kits based on feedback from the community. The fires started in August, and the school season started in September, some families have lost all their possessions therefore the school kits were crucial for the kids to join school especially that a number of children dropping out of school was reported at the time.
 2. The kitchen sets by the stoves. 156 stoves were procured under this DREF operation, this change was based on feedback from the community as the families did not have means of cooking.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

More than 100 fires raged in north-eastern Algeria on the night of Sunday, August 14, 2022, affecting 14 governorates (wilayas).

The fires did not affect inhabited areas in some wilayas, while in others, the number of people affected was minimal. The list of wilayas with the highest number of affected people is shown in the table below.

No	Governorate	Number of affected people per governorate
1	Bejaia	427
2	Jijel	809
3	Souk Ahras	1,331
4	El Taref	1,907
5	Setif	619
6	Skikda	302
7	Tizi Ouzou	208
8	Guelma	397
Total		6,000

These fires resulted in the death of 44 people and caused more than 250 injuries in addition to the evacuation of the "Mother and Child" medical complex located in Souk Ahras and the displacement of more than 500 families (2,000 people).

The fires also affected the livelihoods of over 6,000 people, including farmers who have lost dozens of hectares, nearly a thousand fruit trees, and more than 400 heads of livestock (cows, sheep, etc).

According to the figures transmitted to the ARC by the wilayas, more than 6,000 hectares were destroyed by the fires. The wilaya of Souk Ahras has lost one-third of its forests.

The Algerian government mobilized more than 1,200 firefighters (National Civil Protection) and seven fire helicopters (National Algerian Army) in response to this disaster.

Summary of current response

Immediately after the onset of the disaster, the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) activated its response protocol including the establishment of a crisis cell to manage the response to this disaster.

To support the affected families, ARC mobilized three psychosocial teams, 12 medical personnel, and 500 volunteers. In addition, seven ambulances, three 4x4 cars, and two electric generators were deployed. In coordination with Civil Protection Authority, ARC used 150 tents to house 2,000 displaced people because of the fires (500 families), as of the date of the reporting, all the affected people have secured shelter.

The ARC distributed 3,000 food parcels that covered the needs of 1,500 households (6,000 people) and procured 100 tents, 2,000 mattresses and blankets to replenish the items initially distributed from its stocks. ARC also distributed 1,000 clothing kits and used the rest of the allocated funding to respond to the urgent need for school items for 1,497 children.

In addition to the DREF related activities, the ARC built 3 houses using different funding for the 3 most affected families whose houses were completely damaged and delivered them on 21st of January 2023.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC MENA Regional Office in Lebanon continue to support the ARC by providing technical support to the National Society to facilitate the implementation of the planned relief operation.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Algerian Government deployed more than 7 firefighter helicopters and dispatched fire engines and more than 1,200 firefighters to put out the fires and protect people and property.

Some private sector actors have contributed by making ambulances available to the ARC during this period of crisis.

The National People's Army contributed to the evacuation of the people from the endangered areas and had effective role in the fire's extinction.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

The Algerian Red Crescent, in coordination with local authorities, carried out an initial assessment of needs and identification of the estimated number of the affected population. The fires burned much of the territory and many people lost their homes and goods.

All people displaced due to the fires have been housed after authorities helped them reintegrate their homes, 3 severely affected families received the keys to their new houses (built by the ARC) on the 21st of January 2023.

The ARC is still in close contact with the affected families and continues to assess the development of their situation. It is noticed that people who have lost their livelihoods, especially those who have lost their farms, crops and livestock remain in need of support in terms of basic needs including food parcels and household items.

In addition to the shelter and livelihoods and the basic needs caused by such disasters, the community highlighted the need for school kits as the wildfires occurred only 1 month before the school season, the families had extreme difficulties providing clothing, school items (bags, books etc...) to their children which led some of them to drop out the first months. Therefore, the ARC reallocated the remaining budget of the clothing kits to buy school materials.

Operation Risk Assessment

Since August 14, 2022, the number of COVID-19 cases has stabilized at around 100 new cases per day, according to daily bulletins provided by the Ministry of Health. The Government continues to take measures to fight against the pandemic and limit its spread because the slightest relaxation can lead to an exponential increase in the number of cases. ARC is providing COVID-9 related support in Algeria by intervening in the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) response, the distribution of personal and family hygiene kits, disinfection campaigns, and the vaccination roll-out with the help of the IFRC COVID-19 appeal. ARC is also an active member of the national response plan.

ARC ensured that the volunteers are well protected during their response and support affected communities as part of this operation.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective of this operation is to replenish the stocks depleted in the response in addition to procuring additional stocks after providing life-saving assistance to 1,500 affected families (6,000 people) in the affected governorates Béjaïa, Jijel, Souk Ahras, El Taref, Sétif, Skikda, Tizi Ouzou and Guelma, through the distribution of emergency shelter items, food parcels, and psychosocial support.

Proposed strategy

This operation aimed at replenishing the stock of tents and food parcels that have already been distributed to the 6,000 people affected by this disaster. During the timeframe of this operation, the following activities were carried out:

Shelter: Shelter Assistance was provided to the 500 most affected families (2,000 people) who lost their homes. Under this area of intervention, ARC completed the following:

- Deployed 150 tents to house more than 1,500 people,
- Built 3 houses for 3 extremely affected families (aside from the DREF),
- Provided the families with 2,000 mattresses,
- Provided the families with 2,000 blankets,
- Provided 1,000 clothing kits (male and female) to displaced families (500 families, 2,000 people).

Livelihoods and basic needs: 2,500 one-month food parcels were distributed to the affected families (1,500 families, 6,000 people). ARC managed to replenish these items from the DREF funding.

Health: ARC targeted 6,000 people with the activities under this area of intervention. Relevant activities included:

- The provision of Psychosocial Support (PSS) to the 1,500 affected families,
- The distribution of PPEs to 500 families,

ARC also managed to ensure 1,000 of its volunteers and equip them with the needed visibility and PPEs to ensure their safety and protection.

Finally, ARC distributed awareness raising leaflets with messages on fire prevention to the communities living in the wilayas that are most exposed to fires.

During the operation, ARC continued its needs assessment in the target governorates to identify the evolving needs of affected families on the ground. The needs assessment concluded that:

- The families were facing difficulties providing school items and clothing to their children leading to delays and dropouts in some cases. Therefore, the ARC decided to distribute 1,497 school kits.
- Some families did not have means to cook their food, so 156 stoves were procured and provided to the most vulnerable families.

Human Resources

ARC has mobilized 14 staff members, 500 volunteers, three psychosocial teams, and 12 medical personnel in the targeted regions for this DREF Operation. These personnel and volunteers are already trained and experienced in carrying out relief activities. The volunteers were insured through the IFRC accident scheme and protected with visibility materials and required PPEs. An Operations Manager Rapid Response support was originally planned; however, it was later cancelled due to changes in ARC management decision.

Logistics and procurement

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including procurement, storage, and forwarding to distribution sites, in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned with IFRC's logistics standards, processes, and procedures.

Sourcing of relief/Food/PPE items was done through local procurement. The ARC has a Framework Agreement with suppliers related to the procurement of items such as Food parcels, other materials are usually available locally in the country but in our context, certain items were not available in the supplier's stocks in the required quantities such as mattresses and blankets, which led to delays in the delivery timeframe.

Communications

As part of its response to the disaster, ARC distributed leaflets containing some recommendations to prevent future fires, used its social media presence to spread information and awareness on the development of the situation as well as recommended actions in the case of fires and held awareness campaigns to raise community awareness on the dangers of fires.

Security

- ARC ensured the visibility of volunteers and staff by availing ARC-branded vests and suits,
- ARC worked in close collaboration with the authorities which gave movement clearance to the volunteers,
- ARC insured 1000 volunteers through the IFRC accident scheme,
- ARC provided all volunteers and staff members with enough PPEs.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

The ARC ensured all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the present operation in the affected areas through its country-wide network of branches and volunteers. The data was collected by ARC volunteers on distributed aid, the feedback from the affected people as well as the progress of the operations.

Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC DREF minimum reporting standards. A final report will be issued within three months from the end of the operation. An end-of-operation lessons learned workshop was planned by IFRC and ARC in February, however, due to staff turnover and the deployment of the retained staff to support the emergency response in Syria and Turkey, the lessons learned workshop was cancelled.

Information Management (IM)

Nothing was done under this section, because of the lack of personnel at the ARC.

Community engagement and accountability (CEA)

ARC's volunteers were deployed throughout the operation's timeframe, they were in constant communication with the affected communities and reporting back the development of the situation and the needs of the affected people.

A free hotline "numéro vert: 1005" was activated, in order to report any needs, developments related to the situation and feedback from the communities.

Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

Acknowledging that women, girls, men, and boys with diverse ages, disabilities, and backgrounds have very different needs, risks, and coping strategies, the operation paid particular attention to the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	Shelter People reached: 2,000 Male: Female:		
	Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions		
Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of people targeted/reached with safe and adequate shelter and settlement.		2,000	2,000
Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
# households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance		500	500
Progress towards outcomes			
The families whose houses were completely damaged, or partially making the house unusable, or representing a risk for the household, had to be displaced and housed in tents in different affected regions. ARC volunteers set the tents and accompanied the affected families in the displacement and the period of staying in the tents, some families where later on moved to transit centers, while others have been housed by relatives (only women and children). In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, ARC distributed from its stocks 2,000 Mattresses and 2,000 blankets to the displaced families. After a needs assessment, and during the distribution of 1,000 clothing kits, the community expressed an urgent need for school kits to enable children to enrol in the new school year. Therefore, ARC decided to use the remaining budget from the clothing kits to acquire the needed school kits. The community also expressed a need for stoves as they lacked means to cook their meals and ARC made the decision to replace kitchen sets with 156 stoves for the most affected families. Under this DREF operation, 1,315 mattresses, 1,648 blanket and 63 tents were replenished, 1,497 school kits were procured and distributed in addition to 156 stoves.			

	Livelihoods and basic needs People reached: 6,000 Male: Female:
Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods	

Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of targeted households that have enough food to meet their survival threshold		1,500	1,500
Output 1.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of people targeted/reached with food assistance.		6,000	6,000
Progress towards outcomes			
ARC supported the 1,500 most affected families (6,000 people) with one-month food parcels. 229 food parcels were replenished. The replenishment of these food parcels is ongoing and was delayed fur to end of year holidays and the Yennayer days.			

 Health People reached: 6,000 Male: Female:		
Outcome 1: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with psychosocial support (disaggregated by gender and age).	6,000	5,543
Output 1.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of PSS workshop conducted	/	/
Progress towards outcomes		
ARC PSS teams went to the homes of the affected families in order to provide with the required psychological assistance. No PSS sessions were organized as the preferred method was home visits based on the recommendation of the psychologists. For the masks the ARC purchased 86,550 masks during 4 months and distributed 500 masks to volunteers and 2,000 masks to the affected families.		

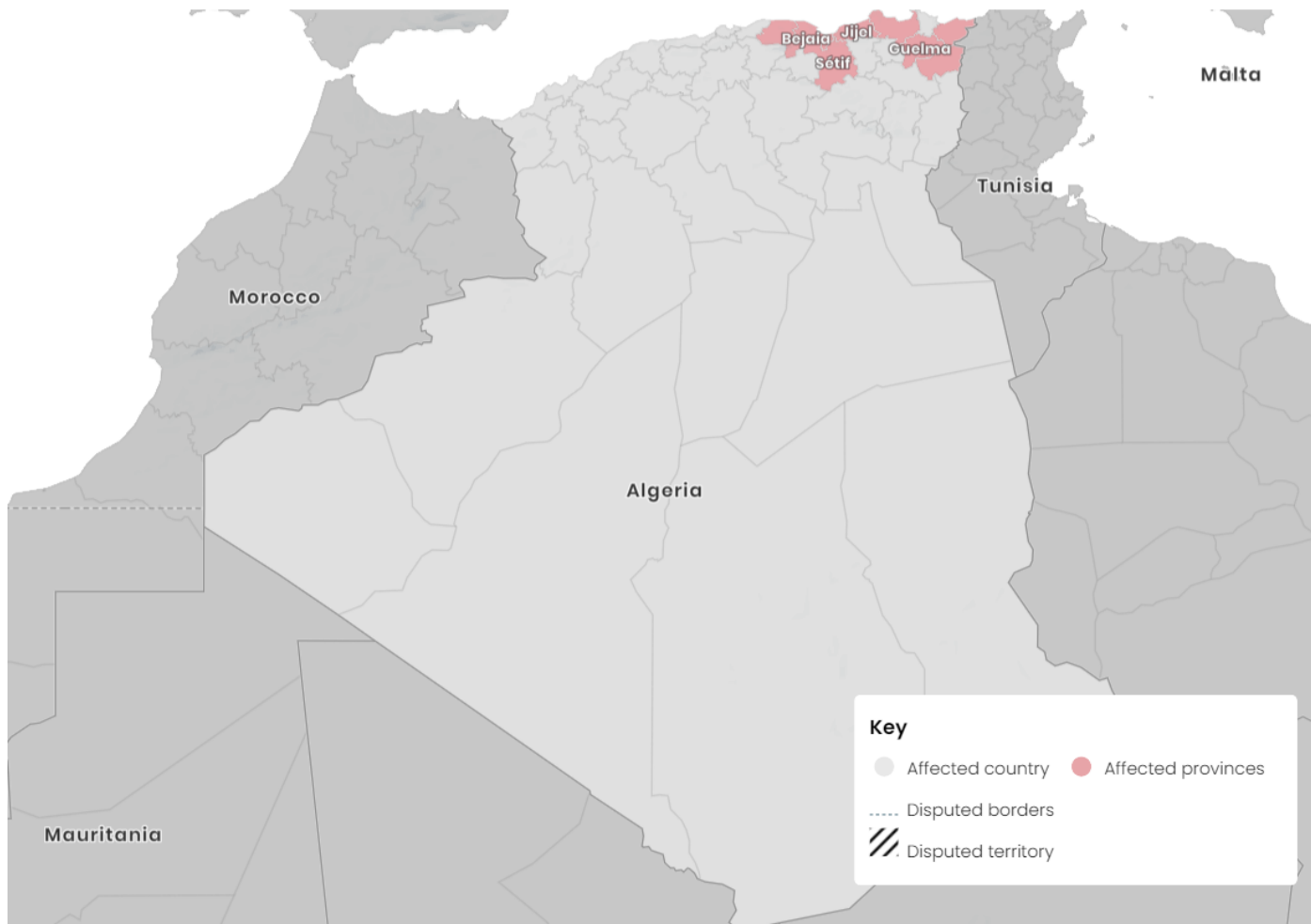
Strategies for implementation		
Outcome S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of motivated volunteers who are protected and insured.	500	1,000
Output 1.1: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers insured and geared with protective equipment.	500	500
Progress towards outcomes		

ARC provided the necessary visibility and PPE equipment to its volunteers, including the distribution of 500 masks to 500 volunteers. Also, ARC made sure to ensure 1,000 volunteers.		
Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured		
Indicator	Target	Actual
International support has been coordinated and provided.	Yes	Yes
Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.		
Indicator	Target	Actual
<i># of surge deployments to the operation through Rapid Response.</i>	1	0
Outcome S3.2: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of Lessons Learned workshop</i>	1	0
Output S3.2.1: Resource generation and related accountability models are developed and improved		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>M&E plan produced</i>	Yes	No
Progress towards outcomes		



DZA: Fire – 2022-08 – Wildfire

August 26, 2022



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, data sources: IFRC, OSM contributors, Map box
Map Sources: ICRC, UN CODs

D. Financial Report

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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

In the Algerian Red crescent

- Présidente: Madame Ibtissem HAMLAOUI; phone: +213023307275; email : Présidente@cra.dz

Program coordination: Ahlem KHELOUL, Coordinator of programs, cra-cp@outlook.com, +213 (0) 6 74 72 77 63

In the IFRC

- **IFRC Regional Office:** Dr. Hosam Faysal, Health, Disasters, Climate & Crises (HDCC)– MENA; phone +961 71 802 916; email: hosam.faysal@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Regional Office:** Nader Bin Shamlan, MENA Operations Coordinator; phone +961 81 131 074; email Nader.BINSHAMLAN@ifrc.org.

In IFRC Geneva

- Rena Igarashi, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination; phone: +41 (0) 79 960 2532; email: rena.igarashi@ifrc.org
- Eszter Matyeka, DREF Senior Officer; phone: +41 75 419 8604; e-mail eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Office:** Luca PECIAROLO, MENA Acting Regional Head, Strategic Engagement and Partnerships; phone: +961 81311918; email: Luca.PECIAROLO@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **IFRC Regional Office:** Goran Boljanovic, Head of Global Humanitarian Services & Supply Chain Management (GHS & SCM), email: goran.boljanovic@ifrc.org.

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

- **IFRC MENA Regional Office, Beirut:** Nadine Haddad, Regional PMER Manager; phone +961 71 802 775; email: 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.