

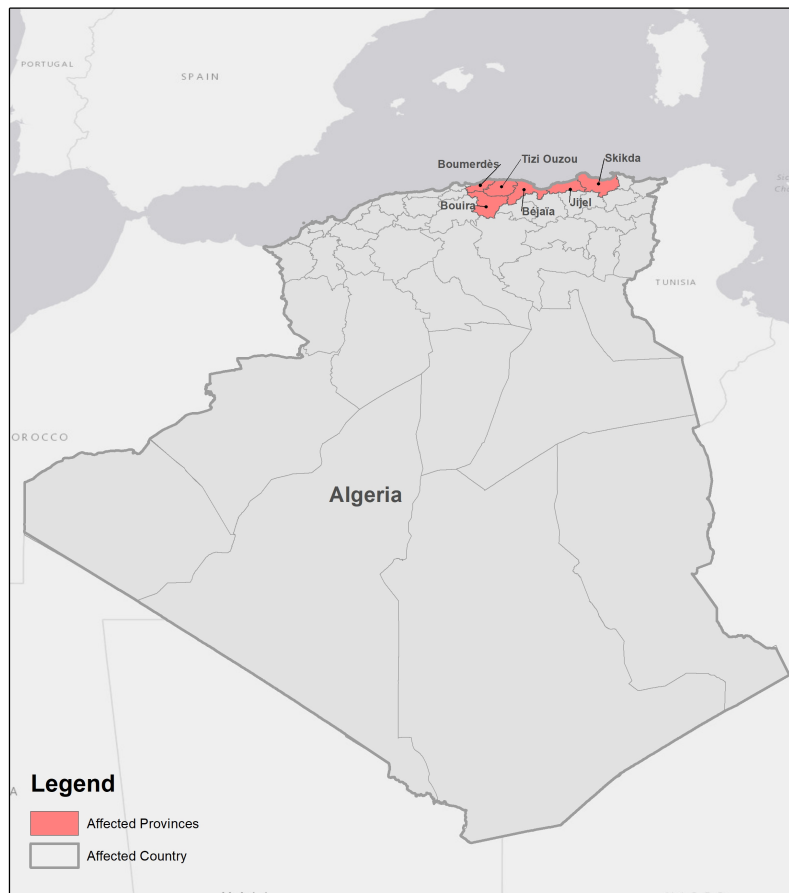


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Appeal: MDRDZ009	Country: Algeria	Hazard: Fire	Type of DREF Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 499,756	
Glide Number: WF-2023-000124-DZA	People Affected: 30,000 people	People Targeted: 19,500 people	
Operation Start Date: 2023-08-07	Operation Timeframe: 5 months	Operation End Date: 2024-01-31	DREF Published: 2023-08-07
Targeted Areas:	Bejaia, Bouira, Tizi Ouzou, Jijel, Skikda, Boumerdes		

Description of the Event

Algeria: Wildfire IFRC July 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.

What happened, where and when?

Around 35 wildfires have been rapidly spreading across the northeastern region of Algeria in more than 11 regions since July 24th causing extensive devastation. The disaster has had a profound impact on 6,000 families, with the Algerian Government reporting 34 confirmed deaths. The affected population heavily relies on crops and livestock, both of which have been severely impacted by the wildfires, resulting in further hardships for the communities. Many homes have been reduced to ashes, leaving families displaced and vulnerable. The dire situation has also affected the health of the population, as the flames and smoke have led to thousands of injuries. The magnitude of the disaster requires urgent attention and support to address the immediate needs of those affected. However, the prevailing weather conditions remain a cause for concern. With temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius and wind speeds exceeding 50 km/h on the Tunisian borders, coupled with low humidity, the conditions continue to favor the expansion and intensification of the wildfires.



ARC volunteers coordinating on the firefighting efforts ARC volunteers evacuating individual affected by the fires.

Scope and Scale

Algeria has been exposed to heat waves for over 60 days, extreme weather patterns with temperatures exceeding 45°C in June and 50°C in July. The country was expected to witness local fires because of the weather conditions and severe summer season. Additional factors have turned local fires into uncontrollable wildfires in the 3rd week of July. The public prosecutor of Bejaia ordered an investigation into the causes of the fires and possible perpetrators. Investigations have not been concluded yet.

The wildfires have reached several wilayas of the northeast, the most affected being: Bejaïa, Skikda, Tizi ousou, Bouira, Jijel, Boumerdes. A total of 30,000 people were affected by the wildfires. So far, at least 34 deaths were registered by the Algerian government and more than 700 people were injured.

Homes, livestock and crops were heavily affected, which directly impacted the well-being of the population, elderly people, children. The national society's assessment is still on going to assess the magnitude of the affects of this event. Further information will be provided in The reports to be submitted at a later stage.

At the time of submitting this request, a total of 3,880 people are currently being sheltered in the evacuation centers while the rest of the people are either in tents provided by the national society or have decided to relocate to stay with relatives.

Wind speed and humidity level are critical factors that influence the behavior and spread of wildfires.

Wind is one of the most influential factors in wildfire behavior. It affects wildfires spreading by increasing the rate at which a fire can spread. Additionally, it affects the intensity making it burn hotter and more intensely.

On the other hand, humidity also triggers stronger and more devastating wildfires. It influences fire behavior as low humidity levels contribute to more aggressive fire behavior. When humidity is low, fires burn at higher temperatures and are more challenging to control.

Algeria is currently exposed to a Heat Wave with an average temperature exceeding 45°C, the wind speed is exceeding 40km/hour, with low humidity.

Wildfires are currently active in Northern Western Algeria, where the temperature is exceeding 45 and the wind speed is exceeding 30km/h and with very low humidity. All factors favorize the expansion of the wildfires and their intensity.

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?

Yes

Did it affect the same population groups?	Yes
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	Yes
If yes, please specify which operations	MDRDZ008 and MDRDZ007

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent

The scope of this event is larger and more urgent than the previous ones, the capacity of the ARC fell short in the face of the horrendous event. The fires have spread quickly and have affected more people, causing deaths and injured people from the first hours of the event.

Lessons learned

Several challenges were faced during the previous operations including delays in procurement, turnover in the national society causing delays in reporting and challenges to financial reporting. To mitigate this, it was agreed with the national society that close communication with IFRC is crucial to the quality of implementation of emergency operations. IFRC's support is required in training the new staff on DREF guidelines, procurement and financial procedures and other technical aspects.

In this operation and to avoid the issues faced previously, the deployment of surge capacities in operations management and procurement were a condition to the processing of the request.

Current National Society Actions

Health	The fires have caused several health issues including injuries and respiratory issues for the affected people. The ARC deployed two equipped ambulances and provided medication and first aid to the injured people and continues to provide psychosocial support to the families in the shelters.
Assessment	Since the onset of the event, the ARC deployed an assessment team to assess the situation, while the assessment continues in coordination with the national authorities. The outcomes of the assessments will be provided in the reporting for this operation at a later stage.
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	The ARC has distributed 1,000 Hygiene kits to the families in the temporary shelters, in addition to 100,000 bottles of water, and has deployed 2 Water tanks with a capacity of 1,000L each to provide the affected people with clean drinking water.
Shelter, Housing And Settlements	The national authorities have set up evacuation plans in local schools to accommodate those displaced from their homes. The Algeria Red Crescent ARC has distributed 100 tents to serve as a temporary shelter for those who reside in remote areas with no nearby shelters. The national society also distributed 2,000 mattresses and 1,000 blankets to the affected families.
Livelihoods And Basic Needs	The ARC has deployed two trucks and 5 (4x4) vehicles to facilitate access to the affected areas and to distribute 2,500 food parcels as immediate basic

needs support to the people affected by the fires as they lost their immediate livelihoods.

Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

IFRC	The IFRC has been supporting in the monitoring and assessment of the situation including daily risk watch of the heatwave, providing technical support in the completion of relevant reports and documentation as well as designing the intervention and setting the budget.
ICRC	ICRC are present in the country and are supporting the structure of the national society but have no direct role in supporting this response.
Participating National Societies	The Spanish Red Cross is present in the country but is not involved in the operation.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	The Algerian Government deployed around 12 aircrafts, and 6 water bombers to control the fires, in addition to the participation of 8,000 civil defense personnel, 529 vehicles, and 10 military convoys from other regions in the country. The government also participated in the evacuation and rescue of 1,500 people who were stranded by the fires. The national authorities requested the Algerian Red Crescent Society to participate in the response to this event and continues to coordinate with the national society on the response operation.
UN or other actors	N/A
Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?	



Needs (Gaps) Identified

Shelter Housing And Settlements

A large number of people were forced to leave their houses (170 families by the second day in Jijel, Bouira and Bejaia) due to the fires and the number of tents in stock is very limited compared to the gravity of the disaster, and the schools prepared as shelters are getting filled quickly. At the time of submitting this request, 3,880 people are very sheltered in the temporary shelters provided by the national authorities, while others are either staying in tents provided by the national society or have relocated to stay with relatives. These people have lost their shelters and their shelter items and are in need of basic household items such as mattresses and blankets among other needs.

Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The majority of affected people live off crops and livestock that were affected by the wildfires (9 chicken coops with the capacity of 1000 chicken each, 22 lambs, and 35 family-owned agricultural lands were reported to have burned down in Jijel based on initial assessments)

Health

Immediate risk to life and physical health: injuries (severe burn injuries), respiratory issues including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and casualties, leading to an increased demand for emergency medical services.

Many affected people experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. Overwhelmed healthcare facilities and disruption of health services, as well as strain on medical supplies and resources (shortages in essential items).

The displacement of people and overcrowded living conditions in temporary shelters can facilitate the spread of infectious diseases.

These needs will not be addressed under this operation but will be covered by the national authorities with the support of the national society.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

the fires have caused infrastructure damage to water and sewage system networks. Rehabilitation of these networks will be carried out by the national authorities. Immediate need for drinking water and WASH facilities remain urgent needs for the people who lost their households to the fires. Due to the nature of temporary shelters, it is expected that some hygiene and health issues may arise due to crowdedness.



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The DREF operation aims to meet the immediate needs and to support 19,500 people affected by the wildfires in Bejaia, Bouira, Tizi Ouzou, Jijel, Skikda, Boumerdes, through the provision of Household items, Water and hygiene kits and food parcels.

Operation strategy rationale

To achieve the objective of the operation, the national society will provide 3,900 families (19,500 people) with food parcels, and 3,750 families with WASH services including water and hygiene kits to cover their needs for 3 months. In addition to replenishing 2,000 mattresses, and 2,000 blankets that were distributed to the families that lost their households to the fires. The national authorities are currently working on addressing the long term needs of the affected population. In the meantime, the national society plans to provide 50 tents as a temporary shelter to the families who lost their homes to the fires and were residing in remote areas that do not have official shelters prepared by the authorities.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This operation targets the population affected by the wildfires in the mentioned most affected 6 wilayas (Bejaia, Bouira , Tizi Ouzou, Jijel, Skikda, Boumerdes). With a focus on families whose households were completely destroyed and are either currently residing in the shelters prepared by the authorities or in tents provided by the national society until they are relocated to permanent shelter

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The operation will attempt to target all of the population affected by the fires, taking into consideration the prioritization of the people most in need including:

- Families who have their households completely or partially damaged by the fires.
- Families who have lost their livelihoods and are in need for immediate food and water support
- Female headed households
- Families with people with disabilities, elderly people and injured people due to the fires.

Total Targeted Population

Women:	9,696	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	-	%	%
Men:	9,804	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	-	%	
Total targeted population:	19,500		

Risk and security considerations

Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Risk to the safety of volunteers due to hot weather	The volunteers are provided with awareness raising messages on how to prevent the possible implications of the heatwaves. They are also provided with water and cap (as part of their uniforms) and are working in shifts to avoid exhaustion.
Delays and/or challenges in procurement	A procurement surge profile will be deployed under this operation to provide support and guidance to the national society on procurement procedures and alternatives in case of challenges. IFRC MENA RO procurement department will continue to provide the support needed to the national society throughout this operation. Local procurement will be conducted through the national society to avoid delays with the option of conducting international procurement if local procurement becomes a challenge.
Reoccurrence of wildfires due to the continuing heatwaves	IFRC MENA RO continues to monitor the forecasts and share relevant information and alerts with the national society. The national society keeps close communication with the national authorities and national MET agency for relevant information or alerts on weather conditions. The national society is also working on replenishing some of the items used during their response as part of their restocking activities in case they need to respond to an upcoming event. The national society and the national authorities have also been working on spreading awareness messages on what to do in case of fires.
Access to the affected areas can be challenging	The national society is continuously coordinating with the national authorities on safety and access to the affected areas.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation



Planned Intervention

	National Society Strengthening	Budget	CHF 20,992
		Targeted Persons	
Indicators	Target		
# of DREF trainings conducted	1		
# of lessons learned workshops conducted	1		
	Priority Actions:	• Cover the per diems of 500 volunteers • Conduct lessons learned workshop • Conduct DREF training	

	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Budget	CHF 101,395
		Targeted Persons	18750
Indicators		Target	
# of families receiving water		3600	
# of hygiene kits distributed		3750	
Priority Actions:		• Distribute hygiene kits to 3,750 families for 3 months • Distribute drinking water for 3,600 families for 3 months	

	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 61,020
		Targeted Persons	
Indicators		Target	
Priority Actions:		• Deployment of Ops manager for 4 months • Deployment of procurement surge profile for 4 months	

	Livelihoods And Basic Needs	Budget	CHF 193,184
		Targeted Persons	19500
Indicators		Target	



# of food parcels distributed	3900
Priority Actions:	• Distribute food parcels for 3,900 families for 3 months

	Shelter Housing And Settlements	Budget	CHF 123,165
		Targeted Persons	2000
Indicators		Target	
# of tents distributed		50	
# of blankets distributed		2000	
# of mattresses distributed		2000	
Priority Actions:		• Distribute 2,000 Mattresses • Distribute 2,000 blankets • Distribute 50 tents	

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

20 staff from the national society in different capacities are involved in this operation with one project coordinator assigned by the national society as the focal point in addition to 500 volunteers.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

- Deployment of an operations manager to support the implementation of this operation was agreed upon with the national society.
- Deployment of procurement surge profile to support the procurement process for this operation.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

Sourcing of relief items /Food Packages is to be primarily done locally with the option of international procurement is needed in consultation and support from GHS & SCM Unit. The purchase of food items is to be done primarily from the local market, with adequate certification process (independent inspection / Lab testing to be carried out. Technical approvals to be sought/received from IFRC through the support of IFRC MENA, Supply Chain Management Unit (IFRC GHS&SCM MENA) in Beirut. Any additional logistics support can be made available by the IFRC GHS&SCM MENA, as need.

How will this operation be monitored?

In direct coordination with the PMER and Quality assurance unit at IFRC MENA RO, a monitoring plan will be developed and implemented during this response. The PMER and Quality assurance unit comprises PMER, IM and CEA capacities that will be directly coordinating with ARC. The support will cover planning, monitoring, data collection and analysis along with CEA activities whenever needed.

Biweekly meetings will also be organized between the operations team at IFRC MENA RO with the national society and IFRC surge team to follow up on the operation to ensure smooth implementation and address challenges as they come up.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRDZ009 - Algerian Red Crescent Society Algeria wildfire 2023

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	417,744
Shelter and Basic Household Items	123,165
Livelihoods	193,184
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	101,395
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	0
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	82,012
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	61,020
National Society Strengthening	20,992
TOTAL BUDGET	499,756

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)





Contact Information

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

- **National Society contact:** Oussedik Faouzi, ARC advisor, oussedik@hotmail.com
- **IFRC Appeal Manager:**
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- **IFRC Project Manager:** Hossam Faysal, Acting Head of IFRC Delegation- Algeria, hosam.faysal@ifrc.org
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Hossam Faysal, Acting Head of IFRC Delegation- Algeria, hosam.faysal@ifrc.org
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[Click here for the reference](#)

