



Photo: Magen David Adom in Israel

Appeal: MDRIL004	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 999,396	Crisis Category: Orange	Hazard: Complex Emergency
Glide Number: OT-2023-000197-ISR	People Affected: 9,364,000 people	People Targeted: 10,000 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 14-10-2023	Operational End Date: 14-11-2023	Total Operating Timeframe: 1 months

Targeted Areas: **Central District, Haifa, Jerusalem, Northern District, Southern District, Tel Aviv, Occupied Golan**

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, 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.

Description of the Event

Date of event

2023-10-07

What happened, where and when?

In the early morning of 7 October 2023, armed groups launched a multi-front (land, air, and sea) operation against Israel. The assault combined gunmen crossing the border fence into Israel in over 30 locations and attacking over 20 Israeli kibbutzim (small villages) and towns, targeting various Israeli military installations as well as nearby settlements, and a music festival, with a heavy barrage of rockets fired from Gaza. Rockets have been fired from Gaza towards Israeli villages and cities surrounding and up to 170 km from the border, including the major cities of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Beer-Sheba. Beginning on 13 October rockets were fired at the Galilee (North of Israel). Ongoing rocket launches and fighting has taken place since the armed hostilities began.

The deadliest attack in Israel in decades, (source Israeli Defense Forces – IDF spokesperson) more than 1,200 Israeli and foreign nationals, including women, children, and the elderly, were killed by members of the armed groups, including 3 on-duty Magen David Adom in Israel (MDA) National Society members. According to the Israel Ministry of Health, at least 4,229 people have been injured.

During the attacks on Israeli communities and military bases, approximately 240 captives from Israel - including women, children and elderly - are believed to have been taken into Gaza (as per IDF spokesperson).

There have also been several security incidents registered in the Northern border of Israel (with Lebanon and Syria). There have been reported attacks against military bases and attempts to cross the border by arms barriers, mortar shelling and drone attacks.

The Israeli Defense Forces have closed roads near Gaza, as well as the Allenby/King Hussein bridge. Restrictions are in place in many other areas within rocket reach. A "state of emergency" in Israel and a "state of war" have officially been declared by the Israeli government, with limitations on public gatherings in all the territory up to 80 km from Gaza, and no schools open until the end of October. Universities delayed their fall semester until 1 January 2024.

The communities around Gaza have been evacuated and the residents of Sderot (the largest town in the area) were offered the opportunity to evacuate. Communities in the North in close proximity to the border, have been evacuated as well. Bedridden patients in the affected communities have also been evacuated.

Hospitals in the north and south of Israel have been transferred to facilities in the center to free bed capacity. Contingency plans in all the hospitals have been activated and wards moved to underground sheltered facilities.

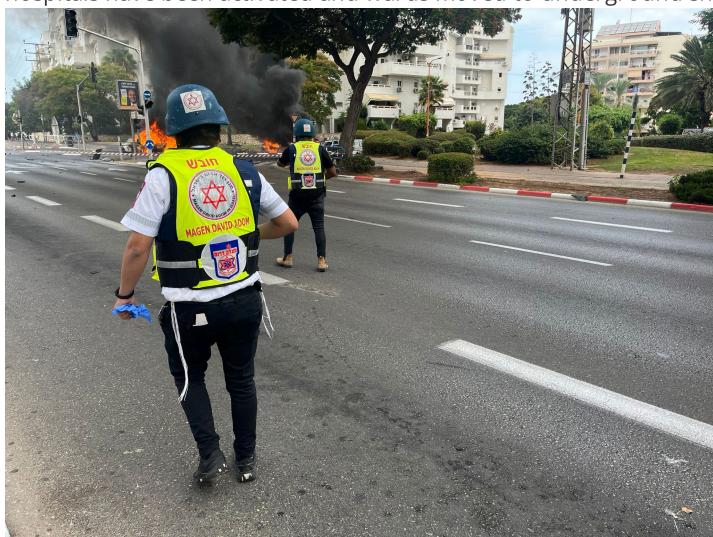


Photo: Magen David Adom in Israel



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Scope and Scale

Since the escalation of hostilities, governmental entities, non-governmental organizations, and volunteers are working collaboratively to address the needs of the affected population. MDA teams provided treatment to thousands of injured, among them many who were killed, and others in serious, moderate and minor condition. During the first day of the escalation only, MDA responded to 8,000 calls via its nationwide emergency number (101).



MDA helicopters made dozens of medical evacuations of civilians and soldiers who have been injured in the field as well as from hospitals in the south to the following hospitals: Sheba, Beilenson, Ichilov, Shamir Medical Center (Assaf Harofeh), Hadassah, and Shaarei Zedek in Jerusalem.

After receiving primary care in Barzilai Hospital and Soroka Medical Center in the south, dozens of ambulances, mobile intensive care units (MICUs) and MDA mass evacuation vehicles transferred injured in all stages of severity to different hospitals spread all across Israel.

MDA blood services staff collected, tested and processed more than 13,000 blood units from civilians who came in and donated blood with the intent to supply blood to all the hospitals who will use it to treat the wounded. During the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) response period, over 60,000 blood units were collected.

The conflict has had a significant humanitarian impact, including displacement, loss of life, injuries, destruction of infrastructure, restrictions on movement, and challenges in accessing necessities like healthcare, education, and other basic needs. The Israeli authorities reported that since the beginning of the conflict, 1,200 people have lost their lives and more than 4,229 people have been seriously injured.

According to the Israeli government, approximately 240 Israelis, including soldiers and civilian women, children, and infants, as well as some foreign nationals, have been kidnapped and forcibly taken into Gaza.

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	Yes
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	<p>Establishing a mother's milk bank to assist nursing infants whose mothers were killed, injured, or kidnapped.</p> <p>Collecting blood donations.</p> <p>Arranging medical helicopter transports.</p> <p>Providing psychosocial assistance to affected MDA volunteers and staff.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) does not have presence in Israel. Therefore, the IFRC Regional Office for Europe (ROE) has supported MDA in this operation. IFRC ROE has technical capacities to support across sectoral areas, including health and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), operations, communications, and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA). IFRC ROE was available to support MDA as requested with either technical or coordination support.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>MDA has received offers of support from numerous Partner National Societies (PNS), including the German Red Cross, American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finland Red Cross, Georgia Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, French Red Cross, Czech Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Philippines Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Mexican Red Cross.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

Through its permanent presence in Israel and the Occupied Territories (ILOT) since 1967, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been working to alleviate the suffering of people impacted by conflict. The ICRC has been partnering with the MDA and last month has signed a 4 year partnership framework agreement to continue supporting Municipal community contingency planning for emergencies, further strengthening the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) network, building the next humanitarian leaders in the National Society (NS), promoting International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and supporting its contribution to Movement policy and operations.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event



Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	<p>The Government of Israel has requested limited technical and in-kind assistance from the international community in the area of identification of the deceased. It is providing support to displaced people for the majority of their needs, including shelter, food and essential household items, hospital services, psychosocial support, and will support for any needs for resettlement. National, regional, and municipal authorities are all mobilised to support the ongoing needs in both short and long term, and depending on the evolution of the situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency government has been created as of 11 October 2023. • Local authorities are in charge of sheltering the vulnerable population outside of the endangered communities. • Hospital care is managed by the national authorities. • Coordination cells are active at the local level, district level, and at the national level. • MDA is present at all coordination cells and has a representative at the Ministry of Health. • Government opened an international roster for healthcare professionals. • Government is considering financial support to the affected population.
UN or other actors	No response/information is available on other actors' activities in Israel.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The overall coordination of the response is managed by the Government of Israel. MDA has activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and is coordinating with other domestic response agencies. In partnership with Regional Office for Europe (ROE), MDA has developed a country plan, which is coordinated by ROE. MDA representatives are actively involved in coordination efforts with the Israeli government at multiple levels, including local, regional and national level in various ministries such as the Ministry of Health, Home Front Command, and the national police. Currently, there are no cluster coordination mechanisms active. MDA participates in any coordination mechanisms that are established by the response.

Additionally, a "war scenario" contingency plan was activated during the DREF period.

In accordance with Movement coordination practices, MDA convened a Mini-Summit to guide the Movement's support and response efforts. As per this arrangement, MDA assumes the role of Convener, while the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) takes on the Co-convener function, with full collaboration and support from the IFRC.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



As a result of the escalation of hostilities, thousands of people were and continue to be in need of first aid, immediate medical attention, including trauma management, psychosocial first aid, and transportation to hospitals. There is a need for a mass response in several incidents simultaneously along with the need to support hospitals across the country with blood components for treating casualties. Seven communities have been severely affected in the south of Israel and are considered particularly vulnerable; amongst these communities there are different vulnerabilities. All people who are living near the border areas are considered at risk, while other areas of the country are also at risk of rocket attacks and other forms of violence, leading to physical injuries. The need for psychosocial support is enormous, both in the immediate and long term. MDA will consider in the longer term whether additional support to psychosocial support capacities is required.

To increase the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response capacities to the population affected by the escalation of hostilities, MDA's entire ambulance fleet has been mobilized and are being manned 24/7. Staff and volunteers of MDA are manning ambulances in shifts or on stand-by, receiving emergency calls in MDA operation centers, and collecting and distributing blood and blood components to hospitals. An additional 130 ambulances have been mobilised. With additional ambulances, there is a need for supplemental fuel and maintenance, as well as the additional teams required for the shifts.





Education

Due to the civilian displacement alternative education facilities needed to be established for schooling of all ages. The Israeli government is working with the regional councils to meet these needs.



Migration And Displacement

Due to the threat of hostilities along the Gaza border specifically missiles, mortars and drone attacks and Anti-tank missiles and rockets and drone attacks near the Northern border, many communities were evacuated to prevent innocent loss of life from the indiscriminate hostile attacks on civilian population. Those displaced communities have been sheltered at hotels in the central region of Israel as well as the Dead Sea and Eilat areas.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of the operation was to support the response to the immediate health needs of the population affected by the complex emergency by contributing to expanded operational and maintenance costs of MDA ambulance services.

Operation strategy rationale

With its national mandate for providing emergency medical services and blood services, MDA activated its response system to ensure it has the capacity to respond to any potential events occurring at the community level throughout the country. This includes preparing for the possibility of multiple events occurring simultaneously.

During the days of escalation, MDA has been providing emergency medical services to the population affected by the ground attacks and rocket attacks by operating additional ambulances 24/7.

MDA provides rapid and appropriate emergency medical care, including psychosocial first aid, for injuries resulting from the current escalation, while also responding to routine calls and managing inter-hospital transfers as necessary for security or care reasons. The ambulances serve a wide geographic area, covering millions of people within their catchment areas. The activation of additional ambulances and teams has led to increased fuel consumption, necessitating further support for the personnel operating the ambulances.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The target of this operation was approximately 10,000 people, representing the patients to be treated by the additional MDA ambulance services.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

MDA supports the affected population all over the country, in all the affected areas and hospitals nationwide. Particular focus is given to the vulnerable population living near the borders with Gaza and Lebanon, the seven communities in the south of Israel heavily impacted by armed conflict, and locating ambulances nearby the evacuated and internally displaced persons.

Total Targeted Population

Women	5,010	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Men	4,990	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	10,000		



Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Significant scale up in armed hostilities including fighting on Israeli territory and increase in aerial bombardments, and/or evolution of armed hostilities to include multiple fronts and borders.	MDA has activated its "war contingency" scenario and is currently engaging in contingency planning for additional escalations. It is prepositioning ambulances in important parts of the country and mitigating possible civilian impact by moving patients to more secure areas as necessary. MDA personnel are operating using helmets and flak jackets, armoured ambulances are operated at the highest risk areas, operations centres and blood services are working from bomb shelters. Specific security protocols are in place.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The situation is both dangerous and volatile. MDA volunteers and staff are operating in an insecure environment in many areas of the country, with high risks to themselves. Sadly, three MDA members have been confirmed to have lost their lives in the line of duty since the start of the escalation of hostilities, with another two MDA members seriously injured and two with minor injuries. One MDA volunteer is currently unaccounted for. A rocket landed near MDA station in Shderot, resulting in two ambulances becoming non-operational.

Security incidents were registered in the Northern border (with Lebanon and Syria), raising the possibility of additional hostilities. Since 7 October, security incidents on the Northern border have become commonplace.

Further escalation of the attacks, while rockets are being fired and ground hostilities are involved, may decrease the accesses of MDA teams to victims of violence, limiting the response capacities.

Implementation



Budget: CHF 999,396

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Assisted Persons: 10,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of additional ambulance cars in operation	130	130

Narrative description of achievements

- MDA operated 130 ambulances using IFRC-DREF funds, thereby increasing its response capabilities.
- MDA provided greater flexibility to deploy and redeploy in response to the displacement and migration of the population.
- MDA delivered rapid responses in chaotic situations, reassuring the public and instilling a sense of security.
- MDA proactively deployed ambulances to clusters of displaced populations, particularly near the Dead Sea and Eilat.
- The availability of additional ambulances enabled MDA to deploy them as needed for responding to 9,666 nationwide rocket attacks.

Lessons Learnt

- Necessity to provide logistic support to the teams deployed in the field.

Challenges

- Maintaining high level state of alert when there are minimal casualties.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRIL004 - Israel - Complex Emergency

Operating Timeframe: 14 Oct 2023 to 30 Nov 2023

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/10-2024/03	Operation	MDRIL004
Budget Timeframe	2023/10-2024/03	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 14/May/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	999,396
DREF Response Pillar	999,396
Expenditure	-999,396
Closing Balance	0

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	999,396	999,396	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
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	999,396	999,396	0
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services			0
EA03 - National Society Strengthening			0
Enabling Approaches Total			0
Grand Total	999,396	999,396	0



Contact Information

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

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