

Federation-wide National Society Response Plan

Middle East Complex Emergency Emergency Appeal



ERCS delivering humanitarian aid to PRCS.

Emergency appeal No: MDRS5002

Timeframe of this response plan: 14 Months

Number of people to be assisted: 43,000 (inside Egypt)

Federation-wide funding requirement: 10 million CHF
IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: 6 million CHF

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the recent escalation of October 7, 2023, the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip has been exacerbated. At the time of writing, according to the United Nations and the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH), over 1.6 million people have been displaced from their homes in the Gaza Strip, and thousands of homes and properties have been destroyed. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health and Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) as of November 22nd, more than 14,532 people have lost their lives and over 35,000 have been injured in the Gaza Strip. Of those, more than 205 medical staff, 25 rescue team members and more than 35 journalists have lost their lives. The conflict has also caused widespread damage to infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, warehouses and water and electricity systems. According to the MoH, 26 hospitals, including the dedicated cancer hospital, and 55 health centers are completely out of service, while more than 57 healthcare facilities have been damaged and 55 ambulances are inoperable. PRCS' headquarters and Al-Quds Hospital in western Gaza, which was hosting over 14,000 displaced people, has ceased its operations as it was declared unsafe, and so was evacuated on the 14th of November after a failed first attempt on the 13th. Patients were evacuated to Al-Amal Hospital, which is also affiliated with PRCS in the south, and is currently operational despite the power outage as medics are resorting to traditional medicine to treat the wounded. The airstrikes have led to damage and blockage of roads, increasing the challenge to access injured victims and evacuating medical cases to the Egyptian border. As of November 3rd, 8 PRCS ambulances have been damaged, 4 PRCS emergency medical team members have lost their lives and 21 volunteers and medics have been injured. PRCS and UNRWA warehouses, essential for the reception of humanitarian assistance have suffered damage.

On the Egyptian side of the border, 155 Palestinians are stranded and are unable to cross back into the Palestinian territories since the closure of the border. They are suffering from a lack of food, medication, and shelter. The already dire humanitarian context inside Gaza is deteriorating further, resulting in large-scale displacement inside Gaza and movement southwards, closer to the Egyptian border. ERCS is the only organization with access to North Sinai and already holds operations and projects in the area through its branches. As of November 3rd, the Rafah border crossing was opened for only two days allowing for the transport of a very limited number of medical cases and some foreign passport holders. Only 91 medical evacuees and unaccompanied children have reached Egypt's Rafah borders and are currently receiving medical services by the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), and psychosocial first aid and humanitarian assistance by the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS).

ERCS is providing logistical support to PRCS and coordination has been reached between both National Societies to supply lifesaving humanitarian assistance including food and medicine to the people in Gaza. By November 20th, ERCS has delivered 1,168 trucks carrying medical consumables (including PPEs), medication, food items, water, and shelter items over the border to PRCS. ERCS has also activated 24-hour operations centres, including at its headquarters, North Sinai, and Ismailia branches. ERCS trained staff and volunteers are ready to provide humanitarian aid, assistance, and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid at the Rafah crossing border.

The IFRC, ICRC, with the leadership of ERCS are setting up logistics hubs in strategic locations including across the border from Gaza near Rafah Crossing. The main objective of these hubs is to offer logistical and administrative support for PRCS for the reception of international shipments via Egypt (or sourced in Egypt). It aims to ensure the orderly and standardized delivery of these shipments to (PRCS) in the Gaza Strip. These deliveries will be done through coordination between ERCS and PRCS to ensure adequate service provision in line with the needs of the PRCS and the Palestinian population. ERCS has one of its regional warehouses in the Ismailia ERCS branch. The warehouse is approximately 254km from the Rafah border crossing. The aim of scaling up this hub is to develop a secondary strategic warehouse to complement the efforts of ERCS's HQ strategic warehouse. This is the second biggest warehouse for ERCS and the nearest warehouse to the Rafah borders.

The ERCS logistics services will focus on the following:

1. Reception of shipments intended for PRCS from different partners. The shipments are either arriving in Egypt or have been assembled there.
2. The shipments will then be sorted and quality will be checked based on set quality control processes. To do this, the hub will need equipment and digital tracking systems. Special emphasis is placed on ensuring that

these items adhere to established standards, are properly packaged, and are stored securely. This process is particularly critical for medical supplies, ensuring they meet the highest standards of quality and safety. A specific “cold chain” management function will be incorporated given the critical need for medical supplies and emergency medicines and materials.

3. The hub will function as a central dispatch center. It assumes the responsibility of prioritizing and coordinating the movement of items based on the directives and priorities outlined by PRCS. This coordination extends to the unified management of incoming shipments as well as the timely dispatch of goods to their intended destinations.
4. The hub will as well provide administrative and coordination support. This includes facilitating the transit of membership teams heading to the Gaza Strip in agreement and in close collaboration with PRCS. This administrative support ensures smooth and well-coordinated entry and movement for these teams as they carry out their humanitarian missions with PRCS.

ERCS is also setting up emergency humanitarian service points (HSPs) and a humanitarian hub in Al Sabil, which the main location where the families of medical evacuees and people unable to return to Gaza. The services provided will focus on ERCS’ core mandate with the MoHP in providing MHPSS Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), basic assistance and protection services. They will also provide community health services out of polyclinics and primary healthcare centers. Host communities in the area will also be targeted with assistance based on needs assessments conducted by ERCS, to ensure social integration within the response.

The capacity enhancement and sustainability of such an ERCS logistics hub and ERCS response will go hand in hand with the service delivery and ensure proper preparedness for future similar emergencies including the required infrastructure investment. Such consideration will include provision of digital tools and software to ERCS to be used when conducting needs assessments. Such tools and software improve the cross departmental work and manage, especially during such complex missions as they enhance the accuracy and ensure a smooth workflow between departments. This facilitates ERCS’ overall response capacity and process to deliver prompt delivery and is in line with ERCS’ Digital transformation strategy for 2030.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND TARGETING

ERCS has unmatched access in North Sinai. It is the only organization with access to the area, with already established operations and projects. As such, immediately at the onset of the conflict in Gaza, ERCS deployed three emergency teams to assess the situation and context. The three emergency teams include trained staff and volunteers from ERCS HQ, and from the North Sinai, Ismailia branches. The teams are made up of people focusing on relief, shelter, health, PSS, RFL, communication, protection, WASH, and logistics.

The preliminary findings show:

- Emergency supplies including NFIs, shelter and WASH items are needed to be on standby for dispatch into Gaza in short notice.
- Need to mobilize staff and volunteers to support 24/7 operational capacity.
- Need to mobilize specific disaster management teams.
- Need to mobilize and deploy MHPSS teams and volunteers across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.
- Deploy mobile medical teams to North Sinai.
- Prepare and deploy, as needed, advanced medical posts, field hospitals, and Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) teams.
- Communication and information sharing is essential.
- Support will be needed for any host families; Cash assistance would be the best modality.

- Provide First aid and Psychosocial Support services.
- Conduct health and hygiene awareness sessions to prevent epidemic disease.
- Providing peer-to-peer support for the ERCS staff and volunteers
- Providing assistive devices for people with disability.

The assessments conducted provided contextual analysis that fed into the scenario planning in the respective section below. The scenario planning feeds into the preparation of ERCS to scale the operation based on the possible volatile changes to the context and conflict. It should be noted that the context is quickly evolving with possible significant impact on ERCS plan and intervention. As such, assessments remain ongoing to ensure the proper capturing of evolving needs. ERCS teams are currently conducting assessments in Port Said and Alexandria that has also seen recent medical evacuations. They also plan to conduct regular needs assessments, including the host communities.

Geographically, the scope of work will currently be in North Sinai, Ismailia, Port Said and Alexandria. Depending on changing context and needs, focus may shift to other locations. The branch of North Sinai is at full preparedness capacity, with ability to mobilize 500 volunteers from emergency response team and PSS teams and stocking inventory to facilitate rapid response.

CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE

National Society capacity

Number of staff:	360
Number of volunteers:	33,000
Number of branches	27

- **A total of 38 local units, including 27 branches**, one in each governorate of Egypt. **27 Youth clubs** provide social activities, sports, training, and awareness for youth serving an average of 33,000 volunteers.
- **Five Blood banks** provide safe blood for those in need and promote a culture of non-remunerated blood donation with retention of donors. ERCS blood banks are the first to be established in upper Egyptian governorates where attention is most needed.
- **Eight Hospitals, 35 Polyclinics, 11 Rehabilitation Centers and five Kidney Dialysis units** provide medical and health services together with health education and raising awareness programs.
- **Ten Integrated Social Centers** in Cairo provide vocational trainings, social activities, skills development specially for women and youth in underprivileged areas. Partially integrated centers at all branches provide specific social services.

National Society role in the national response

Egypt is the strategic entry point for aid into Gaza as in previous years the world has resorted to Egypt and the Egyptian Red Crescent to carry out this mission. ERCS is the main consignee of all humanitarian assistance coming into Al Arish airport and destined for Gaza. During this response the logistical and administrative support is required to facilitate and scale up the work of ERCS in delivering national and international aid to PRCs. Meanwhile, ERCS has unmatched access given that it is the only organization with access to North Sinai.

ERCS has an active auxiliary role to support the Ministry of Health and Population during emergency responses. ERCS is currently engaged in two cross border responses: one with Libyan Red Crescent in

	<p><i>mitigation for the losses from the Daniel Storm. The second is the ongoing response for Sudan population movement across the Egypt-Sudan borders in Aswan governorate, which has been active for six months until present day. Four HSPs were established to support the influx of individuals from Sudan providing medical, WASH, RFL, PSS and protection services and the distribution of relief items to meet the basic needs.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore, ERCS is one of the partners implementing actions under the Global Route Based Migration Program. The Program addresses the ongoing assistance and protection needs of people on the move. Under this program, ERCS has established Child Friendly Spaces projects to assist children on the move.</i></p> <p><i>ERCS is the main Movement coordinating lead in Egypt. ERCS has the convenor role and is ensuring the coordination of this operation with the ICRC, IFRC and a number of bilateral Sister National Societies. ERCS is also playing the key role of providing logistic services to all humanitarian actors and donors sending material into Gaza, this includes the UN agencies, ECHO and others.</i></p>
<p>Key areas of scale-up and strength</p>	<p><i>ERCS is mobilising resources and scaling up its capacity at both headquarter and branch levels to increase preparedness, respond to immediate needs, and mitigate the long-term impact on vulnerable populations. The ERCS operation has set three strategic directions for the operation.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Adequate channelling of humanitarian aid to PRCS by creating a humanitarian and logistic hub.</i> <i>2. Provide immediate emergency aid to address the most critical needs of evacuees and their accompanying families, including psychosocial support, RFL, shelter water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).</i> <i>3. The capacity enhancement and sustainability of ERCS logistics capacities will go hand in hand with the service delivery and ensure proper preparedness for future similar emergencies including the required infrastructure investment. This will also facilitate ERCS's overall response capacity and process to deliver prompt delivery.</i>
<p>Areas of new / additional capacities developed</p>	<p><i>This response will include measures to scale up ERCS' emergency response capacity, notably its logistics support, which has emerged as a major role of the National Society given the on-going turbulence and population movements from Libya and Sudan.</i></p>

National Society partners

There are two-member National Societies represented in the country, the German Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross, sharing one delegate and receiving support services from ERCS. Discussions are also on-going between Netherlands Red Cross and ERCS on bilateral partnerships.

IFRC has not yet established legal presence in Egypt and is currently working with the support of the Regional Delegation in Beirut. Through its assigned program coordinator, IFRC has engaged closely with ERCS in many files in 2021 such as efforts on combating COVID-19 pandemic in Egypt, emergency response (DREF) for Aswan floods, support to regional humanitarian crisis such as the population movement from Libya and Sudan, in addition to many capacity building programs.

German RC and Swiss RC have been working with ERCS on a variety of health, migration, DRR and school based DRR program and DM projects and programs. Other Partner National Societies including Turkish Red Crescent, Qatari Red Crescent and Emirates Red Crescent are working on a bilateral basis with the ERCS.

Name of Partner	Health & Care	Integrated Assistance	Protection & Prevention	NS Capacity Building	Details
IFRC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Daily coordination calls with ERCS and IFRC MENA regional Office including, updates from PRCS and ERCS efforts on the border.</p> <p>Deployment of Surge support from RO, deployment of Logistics ERU and Surge.</p>
PNS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GRC/SRC consortium is supporting ERCS with funding for logistic costs pertaining to the operation.
ICRC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Close coordination with the ICRC both country and regional levels to discuss the possible scenarios, and overall contextual analysis in Gaza.</p> <p>Movement logistics coordination hub</p>

ECHO Emergency Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC) and IFRC operational partnership

The EU has launched a humanitarian air bridge operation to support humanitarian partners responding to the crisis in Gaza. Given the unique roles of ERCS and PRCS, the EU and the IFRC have established a coordination platform to mainstream the delivery of in-kind donations from the EU Member States to the operation. The intention of the coordination platform is to streamline the flow of in-kind humanitarian assistance from the EU to Gaza, ensuring that that in-kind donations respond to identified and evolving needs on the ground. At the same time, the Platform seeks to enhance the logistics capacities of ERCS to support their mandate in maintaining the supply chain, which supports the humanitarian community. Two IFRC staff (HEOps and Logistics) are deployed within ECHO in Brussels as part of both organizations' commitment to the success of this endeavor.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Scenario Planning

Scenario	Impact	Mitigating actions
Continued besiegement of Gaza: continuous closures of Rafah crossing with only intermittent access of humanitarian goods and actors into Gaza.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further death and injury to people inside Gaza and further destruction to homes, properties, and infrastructure. Further displacement. Long delays in delivering humanitarian assistance into Gaza will lead to challenges in establishing regular and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic inventory preparedness in North Sinai for stockpiling essential supplies (food, water, medical resources). Delivery of field hospitals to Gaza as a priority. Establishment of 24-hour Emergency Operations Center to

	<p>continuous flow of humanitarian goods and people into Gaza.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any assistance to Gaza strip will need to focus on main live-saving assistance as a priority (food and medicine). • Need for ERCS to increase its warehouse capacities within its logistic hub given long wait time for international aid to transit into Gaza • Medical evacuations from Gaza will be intermittent and would likely include only very critical cases. 	<p>receive humanitarian cases when possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparedness of medical, first aid, PSS, and emergency response teams once security clearance from government authorities to be mobilized. • Establishment of pre-sorting facility to process the humanitarian assistance transiting through ERCS to PRCS. • Need for close coordination between ERCS and PRCS to streamline the flow of humanitarian aid based on approvals and distribution capacities rather than on humanitarian needs.
<p>Opening of Rafah crossing and possible establishment of a regular humanitarian corridor.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular flow of humanitarian assistance into Gaza and regular evacuation of medical and humanitarian cases (along with their families). • Coordination with the Ministry of Health and population for the mobilization of critical and medical cases to receive medical assistance. • ERCS fleet to be prepared for mobilization of teams, and those injured. • Restoring Family Links component for those affected by the conflict. • Strategic inventory preparedness in North Sinai for stockpiling essential supplies (food, water, medical resources). • ERCS is in close coordination with PRCS through their emergency operating center where the situation is being monitored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaling up of capacities in the Emergency Operations Centers. • Increased mobilizing of first aid, medical and PSS teams to the borders • Equip humanitarian service points at the border crossing between Egypt and Gaza, in Al-Arish. • Scale up capacities to increase flow of humanitarian goods through Rafah crossing and coordinating regular passage of humanitarian assistance through the airbridge. • Prepare the necessary relief materials for the required interventions at the Rafah cross-border point.

People to be assisted

Profiles, sex and age breakdown of people targeted

People targeted through this response will be predominantly medical evacuees and those stranded in Egypt. Medical evacuees are accompanied by a maximum of two family members. ERCS will target these individuals, as

well as the host community accommodating them. Special consideration will be given to vulnerable individuals (women, children, and elderly) from the following groups:

- Injured evacuees and their relatives,
- Unaccompanied or separated children,
- Persons with disabilities,
- Persons with chronic diseases,
- Persons in need of first aid,
- Persons who cannot afford transportation from the border,
- Persons who cannot afford transportation from the shelter,
- pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Cumulative overall targets since the beginning of the operation, Federation-wide

Sex-age group	Total
Males Over 18 years of age	TBC
Males Under 18 years old	TBC
Females Over 18 years old	TBC
Females Under 18 years of age	TBC
Total number of people to be assisted	43,000

ONGOING AND PLANNED OPERATIONS

ENABLING APPROACHES

NATIONAL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING, COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS



National Society Strengthening

Objective:

ERCS is able to effectively provide logistics and administrative support to deliver humanitarian assistance to the Gaza strip.

Priority Actions:

Establishment of ERCS logistics hub

The main response strategy of ERCS is to establish logistics hubs that can channel humanitarian assistance received internationally or sourced locally in Egypt and deliver it to PRCs into the Gaza Strip. ERCS will be supported (by the Movement) and will expand its capacities to streamline the logistics, quality control, and administrative processes involved in delivering international aid and support to the Gaza Strip through Egypt, contributing to the efficient and effective operation of humanitarian efforts of PRCs in the Gaza Strip.


The capacity enhancement and sustainability of capacities will go hand in hand with the service delivery and ensure proper preparedness for

	<p>future similar emergencies including the required infrastructure investment. This will also facilitate ERCS's overall response capacity and process to deliver prompt humanitarian assistance in Egypt and Regionally.</p> <p>To establish the logistics hub the following has/will be done:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online coordination mechanisms between ERCS and PRCS • Surge capacities are provided by the Movement to support ERCS. This includes the deployment of Logistics ERU. • IFRC/ICRC supports ERCS to receive international humanitarian assistance. • Establishment/enhancement of logistics SoPs and processes • Training for staff and volunteers • Expansion of warehouse capacities • Provision of vehicles and trucks
<p>Branch Development</p>	<p>Focus will be on branches responding to this emergency including Ismailia and North Sinai branches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments have been carried out on the response readiness in those branches to scale up to match the needs. Capacities of the branches will be enhanced in terms of HR and tools. • Lessons learnt workshop at the end of the operation will feed into mechanisms to support branches in scaling their operations to meet humanitarian crisis in the future.
<p>Volunteer Management Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct effective volunteer management in emergency training. • Launch of caring for volunteers' program for PSS support to staff and volunteers during their response
<p>Humanitarian Diplomacy and Strengthening Auxiliary Role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERCS auxiliary role with the MoHP and MoSS has been activated since the beginning of this crisis. • ERCS is leading coordination meetings in Egypt to bring together local and international actors to better support ERCS and to better support the PRCS response to Gaza. • ERCS has a chair in national coordination meetings to coordinate how their response will complement the Egyptian acting local authorities
<p>PMER and Information Management Development</p>	<p>ERCS emphasize the development of PMER practices through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured planning process to define goals, objectives and strategies for their humanitarian programs include needs assessment, setting SMART objectives and developing implementation plan. • Establish M&E system to monitor progress and impact of their programs through regular data collection, analysis, and reporting. • Support ERCS with information management tools so that ERCS delivers clear and accurate information.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the culture of learning and adaption through using lessons learned and insights gained from projects to enhance effectiveness of other projects
Risk Management Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERCS will conduct comprehensive risk assessment to identify potential hazards and vulnerabilities and develop mitigation strategies accordingly. Ongoing collaboration with governmental agencies and NGOs with relevant stakeholders to allow sharing of expertise and best practices in risk management when needed.
Response Capacity Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERCS will provide trainings to staff and volunteers on emergency preparedness and response aspects including first aid training, training in disaster management.
Resource Mobilization Capacity Building	IFRC, through the MENA Regional Office, is supporting ERCS with resource mobilization and partnership strategies.

HEALTH & CARE INCLUDING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

(MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT / COMMUNITY HEALTH)

 Health & Care	Overall target: 10,000	
	Female > 18: TBC	Female < 18: TBC
	Male > 18: TBC	Male < 18: TBC
Objective:	Evacuees, stranded people and most vulnerable host community are supported with quality health and care services including MHPSS.	
Priority Actions:		
Mental Health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS)	<p>ERCS auxiliary role to the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) focuses on the provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and health services to evacuees and stranded people that are coming into Egypt. This support is also provided to their accompanied family members and to the vulnerable host community. The PSS teams play an important role in helping people cope with the stress and trauma of the violence that they're living and the loss of their loved ones.</p> <p>Establishment of PSS points within the ERCS structures in and around the Egypt-Gaza border, in central hospitals, as well as residential areas hosting evacuees and stranded people.</p>	

Medical and Community Health services

The specific needs of affected people, especially critical cases, will vary depending on their individual circumstances. However, some general needs include:

- Set up polyclinics and primary health clinics with the necessary staff, supplies, and equipment to provide health services including to the families of evacuees.
- Mobilize Emergency response team to Egypt Gaza border.
- Establish service points to provide PSS, First Aid, CBHFA, and referral services.
- ERCS has a team of volunteers well trained on Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) in North Sinai branch, who can deliver the key health promotion messages.
- Provide medical consumables, technical and HR support to health service providers upon local authorities' request.
- Cover the medical costs for the injured and their relatives.
- ERCS will also respond to the needs that go beyond the capabilities of the Egyptian MoHP, such as medication and mobility devices such as walkers, or wheelchairs.



WASH

Overall target: 15,000 people

Female > 18: TBC

Female < 18: TBC

Male > 18: TBC

Male < 18: TBC

Objective:

Providing access to safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation services and hygiene items to evacuees, stranded people, and the host community.

Priority Actions:

Providing safe drinking water and hygiene kits through set distribution points



Providing WASH services to evacuees, stranded people and host community is essential to protect their health and well-being. It helps to prevent the spread of diseases, such as cholera and diarrhea, which are common when people are on the move. ERCS has already trained volunteers on WASH including Hygiene promotion.

The primary activities under the WASH sector will focus on the procurement and provision of:

- Distribution of safe drinking water through water bottles
- Preposition and distribute hygiene items (such as hygiene and dignity kits, jerry cans, etc.) for women, men, children, and babies
- Setting up and prepositioning prefab toilets.
- Conducting hygiene promotion on prevention of WASH associated diseases.
- Establishing adequate water tanks and distributing water through water trucking.

INTEGRATED ASSISTANCE


(SHELTER, HOUSING AND SETTLEMENTS, MULTI-PURPOSE CASH)

 Shelter, Housing and Settlements	Overall target: 10,000 people	
	Female > 18: TBC	Female < 18: TBC
	Male > 18: TBC	Male < 18: TBC
Objective:	Providing shelter relief items and shelter related support to evacuees and stranded people.	
Priority Actions:		
Providing relief assistance for basic needs	<p>Medical evacuees, their families and host community will be provided with shelter items. The specific type of assistance will be determined based on needs assessments.</p> <p>Medical evacuees and their families will also likely need living accommodations which can include hotels and/or apartments. ERCS will cover the costs linked with the accommodation including paying hotel and rental fees.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preposition and distribute emergency stock of blankets, mattresses, cots, and other shelter household items ERCS branch warehouses. • Payment of rental costs in hotels and/or residences based on market assessments on rental capacities (feeding into possible CVA assistance). 	
 Cash and Voucher Assistance	Overall target: 5,000	
	Female > 18: TBC	Female < 18: TBC
	Male > 18: TBC	Male < 18: TBC
Objective:	The most vulnerable evacuees and stranded people have their needs addressed using cash and voucher assistance.	
Priority Actions:		
Providing conditional and/or unconditional cash and voucher assistance	<p>CVA assistance provided to medical evacuees as well as well as stranded people based on priority needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct cash and voucher feasibility study and market assessment to ensure the accessibility of markets assessments. 	

- Ensure coordination with humanitarian actors on a national level (national Cash Working Group) to ensure harmonized operation in terms of (transfer value nu installments) .
- Conduct Monitoring and evaluation of CVA activities (PDM, endline), and integrate affected population engagement (key messages)
- Provide Multipurpose cash assistance that could cover expenses including cash for transportation, cash for health and cash for basic needs.

PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

(PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION (PGI), COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA), MIGRATION)

 Protection, Gender and Inclusion	Overall target: N/A	
	Female > 18: N/A	Female < 18: N/A
	Male > 18: N/A	Male < 18: N/A
Objective:	Affected population receive tailored and targeted assistance, and are safe from harm including violence, abuse and exploitation, discrimination and exclusion, and their gender-based needs and rights are met.	
Priority Actions:		
Prevention and Protection of sexual exploitation and abuse and safeguarding	<p>All deployed ERCS staff and volunteers operate under the newly adopted safeguarding policy to ensure the Prevention of Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment and child protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PGIIE approach to be applied including mainstreaming in relevant technical sectors such as sanitation services taking into consideration gender sensitivities, child friendly spaces, and where appropriate provision of specialized protection services. • Trainings will also be conducted on PGI in emergencies. • ERCS will also ensure the coordination with CEA colleagues on the establishment of a feedback and complaints mechanisms for handling sensitive complaints. • ERCS will also conduct service mapping and establishment of referral pathways and safe referral mechanisms (to be conducted at centres such as the humanitarian hub) 	



Community Engagement and Accountability

Overall target: N/A

Female > 18: N/A

Female < 18: N/A

Male > 18: N/A

Male < 18: N/A

Objective:

The diverse needs, priorities and preferences of the affected communities guide the response ensuring a people-centered approach through meaningful community participation.

Priority Actions:

<p>Establishing NS feedback mechanisms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a CEA foundation approach so that it's integrated into operations, while also improving the knowledge and capacity of staff and volunteers to effectively engage with affected people. • Update standard operational procedures for community feedback and management to guide CEA integration in operations. • Establish feedback mechanisms in consultation with affected people, ERCS staff and volunteers and key informants. ERCS will also ensure regular flow of information to the affected population and analyze, respond to, and act on feedback, to adjust and improve operations.
<p>Collecting community feedback and using it</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lessons learned workshop will enable ERCS and IFRC delegation to identify and document the relevant lessons learned and recommendations for future DREFs.
<p>Community-Based activities supportive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish community-based protection networks that engage community members as focal points for identifying protection risks, providing support, and advocating for the rights and well-being of affected refugees. • Conduct training sessions and workshops to build the capacity of community members, including refugees, on protection principles, human rights, and referral mechanisms.



Migration and Displacement

Overall target: 3,000 people

Female > 18: TBC

Female < 18: TBC

Male > 18: TBC

Male < 18: TBC

Objective:

Support the specific vulnerabilities of people, including medical evacuees and stranded with targeted humanitarian assistance, protection, and humanitarian diplomacy in coordination with relevant stakeholders.

Priority Actions:

ERCS providing specialized services to vulnerable people including medical evacuees and stranded people

ERCS has established a humanitarian hub in areas hosting medical evacuees and stranded people. In addition to provision of services outlined above, the hub provides the following services:

- Establish and ensure effective services through hub for a holistic response.
- Establish child-friendly spaces and provision of educational and PSS activities.
- Create safe and supportive spaces for women to access information and receive counseling.
- Implement group counseling, individual counseling, and trauma healing sessions to address the psychological and emotional needs of affected people.
- Provide access to mental health services, including assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and referrals for individuals with more complex mental health conditions.
- Restore family links (RFL) based on the individual needs of each person. This includes helping people contact or reunite with their loved ones, providing personalized services to unaccompanied minors in coordination with local authorities.
- Provide information, safe referral services mechanisms including legal, and protection needs, and other services depending on individual needs.
- Provide transportation support from the border or by ERCS buses. Coordination and collaboration with humanitarian organizations, government agencies, local authorities, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Disseminate information management products to provide timely and accurate updates on available services, assistance programs, and referral pathways.
- Conduct monitoring and evaluation for service delivery to ensure quality, accountability, and responsiveness to the needs of the affected population.



IFRC Secretariat Services

Objective:	IFRC works to deliver what it promises to National Societies and volunteers, leveraging the strength of the communities with which they work as effectively and efficiently as possible.
Priority Actions:	The Secretariat provides strategic orientation, facilitation, and coordination considering long-term positioning and further capacity development of the National Society. This will be done by building on existing structures for large-scale programming, toward strong guardianship and accountability for all programming. The IFRC Secretariat will facilitate channeling global resources to sustain the localized response and recovery efforts
Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure the staffing needs are met through timely and fast-tracked recruitment, immediate surge support, contract management, and HR support to the delegation and operation.• Deployment of Logistics ERU and Surge support including Supply Chain and Operations profiles.
Resource Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate a joint resource mobilization strategy to ensure that outreach to Movement and non-Movement partners, as well as the tracking of pledges and development of fundraising materials, is shared effectively and efficiently.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support to ERCS in development of communications and visibility action plan that aligns with the priorities identified in this Operational Strategy, including key messages that showcase their work,
Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support ERCS to establish logistics hubs that can channel humanitarian assistance received internationally or sourced locally in Egypt and deliver it to PRCS into the Gaza Strip.• ERCS will be supported to expand its capacities to streamline the logistics, quality control, and administrative processes involved in delivering international aid and support to the Gaza Strip through Egypt, contributing to the efficient and effective operation of humanitarian efforts of PRCS in the Gaza Strip.
PMER and Information Management Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support to ERCS in the development of PMER practices through:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Structured planning process to define goals, objectives and strategies for their humanitarian programs include needs

assessment, setting SMART objectives and developing implementation plan.

- Support ERCS with the establishment of M&E system to monitor progress and impact of their programs through regular data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- Support ERCS with information management tools so that ERCS delivers clear and accurate information.



Coordination and Partnerships

Objective:

Technical and operational complementarity is enhanced through cooperation among humanitarian actors.

Priority Actions:

Movement Coordination

- Coordination has been established and agreed upon between PRCS and ERCS. ERCS will act as a support mechanism to PRCS in the movement of humanitarian aid into Gaza from Rafah border.
- Daily coordination calls and discussions are set up between PRCS and ERCS.
- A cooperation agreement has been signed between ERCS and IFRC highlighting IFRC's commitment to support ERCS in its logistics capacities. The agreement is valid until December 2024 and subject to renewal.
- Regular coordination calls with ERCS and IFRC MENA regional Office including updates from PRCS and ERCS efforts on the border.
- Close coordination between ERCS and the ICRC both country and regional levels to discuss whereas ERCS will be channeling humanitarian assistance destined to the ICRC delegation in Gaza.

External Coordination

- ERCS hosted coordination meetings with UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations to coordinate their response to the crisis in Gaza. The ERCS is also developing a plan to share with humanitarian organizations to outline its role in the response and identify opportunities for collaboration.
- The ERCS with its mandate plays an important role as auxiliary to the local authorities. It is vital that the ERCS is supported in its humanitarian assistance effort to deliver relief and medical items and supplies to Gaza.
- A partnership between IFRC and ECHO has been setup through the establishment of an Emergency Humanitarian Response Capacity

(EHRC) and IFRC coordination cell. The partnership allows to mainstream the delivery of in-kind donations from the EU in Egypt, and then the forwarding to Gaza.

Quality and accountability

For the operation's Federation-wide indicator framework and data collected, please refer to [IFRC GO](#).

As part of the IFRC mandate to ensure quality and accountability, measures are in place at the national level. With the rise of emergencies in MENA, the IFRC has tailored its strategy globally, regionally, and at the country level for a more quality and accountability-focused approach by creating a coherent, complementary, and context-relevant system as a fundamental and critical requirement for National Societies. Several priorities have surfaced for this response:

Performance and Quality Assurance

This will be mainstreamed throughout all operations. Complementarity among information management, results monitoring, evaluation, reporting, risk management, and community engagement will be ensured to achieve quality programming and accountability toward the communities.

1. Creating an efficient monitoring system

The IFRC and Federation partners will support National Societies in creating an efficient, effective, and feasible monitoring system to make sure that practical indicators are identified, verified, documented, and shared publicly when relevant. Relevant technical units will ensure that proper steps are taken for post-distribution monitoring (PDM) and that these are followed up together with input from the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting and Quality Assurance Unit at the IFRC MENA Regional Office. Sensitive reports will be acted upon according to the defined timeline.

2. Federation-wide Approach

The Appeal is an opportunity to reaffirm the need for a collective picture of the Federation and its membership's contributions in response to the acute crisis and the need to regularly have coherent, consistent, and quality data on agreed indicators.

ANNEX 1: NATIONAL SOCIETY RESPONSE PLAN – FEDERATION-WIDE FUNDING REQUIREMENT THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS

	Total	NS Fundraising	Through IFRC	PNS1	PNS2	PNS3
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FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Planned Operations	1,424,000		1,424,000			
Shelter and Basic Household Items	320,000		320,000			
Livelihoods	0		0			
Multi-purpose Cash	200,000		200,000			
Health and Care	471,000		471,000			
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	314,000		314,000			
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	5,000		5,000			
Community Engagement and Accountability	0		0			
Education						
Migration	114,000		114,000			
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0		0			
Environmental Sustainability	0		0			
Enabling Approaches	4,578,000		4,578,000			
Coordination and Partnerships	107,000		107,000			
Secretariat Services	637,000		637,000			
National Society Strengthening	3,834,000		3,834,000			
Total	6,000,000		6,000,000			

Contact information

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

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- **CEO at ERCS:** Dr. Ramy Elnazer, email: ramy.elnazer@egyptianrc.org
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In the IFRC

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- **IFRC Country Delegation - Egypt:** Dr. Asmaa Samir, Programme Manager, email: asmaa.samir@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for MENA:** Yara Yassine, Regional Senior Officer – Acting Head of SPRM, Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization; yara.yassine@ifrc.org

For In-Kind Donations and Mobilisation table support:

- **Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management Unit, MENA Regional Office:** Goran Boljanovic, Regional Manager, email: Goran.BOLJANOVIC@ifrc.org

Reference



Click here for:

- [Link](#) to the Emergency Appeal and updates
- [Link](#) to the Mobilization Table