

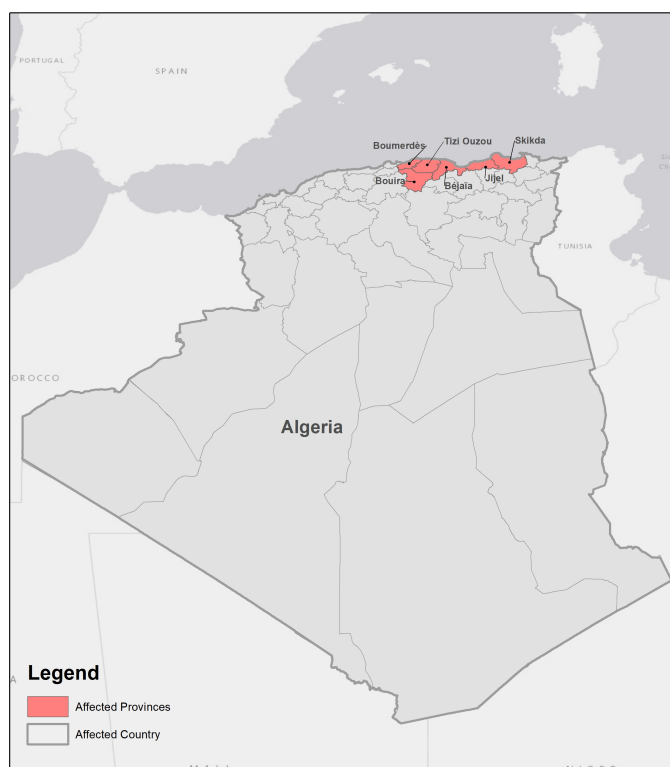


Photo credit: Algeria Red Crescent.

Appeal: <b>MDRDZ009</b>	Total DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 499,756</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Fire</b>
Glide Number: <b>WF-2023-000124-DZA</b>	People Affected: <b>30,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>19,500 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>07-08-2023</b>	New Operational End Date: <b>29-02-2024</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>6 months</b>
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: <b>24-07-2023</b>		Reporting Timeframe End Date: <b>29-02-2024</b>	
Additional Allocation Requested: <b>0</b>		Targeted Areas: <b>Bejaia, Bouira, Tizi Ouzou, Jijel, Skikda, Boumerdes</b>	

# 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 were suitable for the expansion and intensification of the wildfires.

Amidst this dire situation, the National Society has been actively engaged in response efforts for several months, successfully completing a significant portion of the distribution operations. Understanding the evolving needs, the National Society has formally requested critical changes from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), aligning with the adjustments previously outlined.





ARC volunteers helping individuals affected by the fires



ARC volunteers during the distribution process

## Scope and Scale

Algeria has been exposed to heat waves for over 60 days, with 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 the severe summer season. Additional factors have turned local fires into uncontrollable wildfires in the 3rd week of July.

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

Homes, livestock, and crops were heavily affected, which directly impacted the well-being of the population, elderly people, and children. The national society was one of the first responders to the event, deploying its teams to conduct assessments of the magnitude of the effects of this event.

A total of 3,880 people were provided shelter in the evacuation centers while the rest of the people were provided with tents by the national society or decided to relocate to stay with relatives. The fires had a significant impact on the livelihoods of the impacted population.

## Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	Yes
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	No
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

### Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

A one-month extension to the timeframe of the operation is requested to ensure comprehensive reporting and the successful culmination of the operation.

Moreover, alterations are being implemented in the operational strategy, particularly concerning the procurement of some items. This includes modifications to the composition of food parcels and hygiene kits aiming to better meet the needs of the intended recipients. Furthermore, there was an increase in the quantity of distributed water intended for the affected population.

To fortify and streamline operations, an operations manager was deployed for a four-month period, bringing expertise in Project Management, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER). Additionally, this manager conducted a pivotal Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) training session, upskilling 20 individuals within the organization.



Notably, the IFRC was approached to authorize two crucial procurement changes aimed at providing essential assistance to those in need and replenishing depleted stocks. This involved strategic alterations in the composition of food parcels, substituting beans and lentils with pasta and rice due to the unavailability of the former product.

Simultaneously, modifications were sought for hygiene kits, expanding their contents from shampoo, shower gel, and towels to include an array of additional hygiene products. Furthermore, there's been a deliberate increase in the quantity of distributed water intended for the affected population.

Recognizing the urgency of acquiring necessary responses and completing essential reporting, an extension of the operational timeframe by an additional month was formally requested. This extension is crucial for timely resolution from the IFRC and to ensure the successful conclusion of the ongoing operation. These collective efforts underscore the commitment to swift, comprehensive, and effective action in alleviating the plight of the impacted communities.

The requested changes seek to enhance the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of the ongoing relief efforts, addressing various aspects of the community's needs, and shall not require an increase to the original allocated budget.

## Current National Society Actions

### Start date of National Society actions

2023-07-24

<b>Shelter, Housing And Settlements</b>	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 1,996 blankets to the affected families.
<b>Livelihoods And Basic Needs</b>	The ARC has deployed two trucks and 5 (4x4) vehicles to facilitate access to the affected areas and to distribute food parcels as immediate basic needs support to the people affected by the fires as they lost their immediate livelihoods. The national society distributed 11,698 food parcels to 3,900 families during this operation from its stock.
<b>Health</b>	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.
<b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b>	The ARC has distributed 3,750 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.
<b>Assessment</b>	Since the onset of the event, the ARC deployed an assessment team to assess the situation. The outcomes of the assessments will be provided in the reporting for this operation at a later stage.

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	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.
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	The Spanish Red Cross is present in the country but is not involved in the operation.



# ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC are present in the country and are supporting the structure of the national society but have no direct role in supporting this response.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>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.</p> <p>The government also participated in the evacuation and rescue of 1,500 people who were stranded by the fires.</p> <p>The national authorities requested the Algerian Red Crescent Society to participate in the response to this event and continue to coordinate with the national society on the response operation.</p>
UN or other actors	N/A

## 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

The 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.

The IFRC received a request from the NS to authorize pivotal adjustments in procurement procedures, aiming at effectively aiding those in dire need and restocking essential supplies. These modifications encompassed two crucial areas of assistance provision.

Initially, alterations were enacted in the composition of food parcels, strategically substituting beans and lentils with pasta and rice due to the unavailability of the former items in the market. This proactive adjustment ensured the continued provision of sustenance to beneficiaries despite logistical challenges in sourcing specific food items.

Simultaneously, there was a concerted effort to refine the contents of hygiene kits. The initial components, encompassing shampoo, shower gel, and towels, were broadened to include a more comprehensive array of additional hygiene products. This expansion aimed to enhance personal hygiene practices among recipients and better equip them to combat health risks prevalent in their circumstances.

Furthermore, a deliberate escalation in the quantity of distributed water to the affected population was initiated, acknowledging the critical importance of access to clean water in mitigating various health challenges faced by the community.

In light of these multifaceted adjustments and the urgency to acquire necessary responses, a formal request was made to extend the operational timeframe by an extra month. This extension was deemed imperative to facilitate timely responses from the IFRC, complete the required reporting, and ensure the successful closure of the ongoing operation.

# 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 shelters.

## 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	-
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Men	9,804	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	19,500		

# Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
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.
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 caps (as part of their uniforms) and are working in shifts to avoid exhaustion.
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.
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.

# Planned Intervention



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

**Budget:** CHF 123,165

**Targeted Persons:** 2,000



## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of mattresses distributed	2,000	2,000
# of blankets distributed	2,000	1,996
# of tents distributed	50	47

## Progress Towards Outcome

The national society distributed 2,000 mattresses, 1,996 blankets and 47 tents to the affected families.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

**Budget:** CHF 193,184

**Targeted Persons:** 19,500

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of food parcels distributed	11,700	11,698

## Progress Towards Outcome

The national society distributed 11,698 food parcels to 3,900 families during this operation from its stock. The procurement of the parcels to replenish the national society's stock is ongoing. In response to logistical challenges and constraints in the supply chain, modifications have been made to the contents of these essential food provisions.

Specifically, changes have been implemented in the composition of the food parcels, necessitating a substitution strategy. The ARC has opted to replace items like beans and lentils with more readily available alternatives which are pasta and rice. This decision was made in light of the temporary unavailability of the former items, ensuring that recipients continue to receive sustenance despite the supply chain limitations.

This modification underscores the adaptability and responsiveness of relief efforts in the face of logistical hurdles. By swiftly adjusting the contents of the food parcels, the ARC remains committed to providing essential nutritional support to those in need, even amidst challenges in sourcing specific food items.

The primary goal remains unchanged: to ensure that the food parcels cater to the nutritional requirements of beneficiaries. This shift in content is a strategic maneuver to ensure the uninterrupted provision of vital sustenance to affected communities, reflecting the ARC's commitment to adaptability and resilience in fulfilling their humanitarian mandate.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 101,395

**Targeted Persons:** 18,750

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of hygiene kits distributed	3,750	3,750



# of families receiving water	3,600	3,600
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## Progress Towards Outcome

The national society managed to distribute 3,750 hygiene kits to the affected families. The national society also distributed drinking water to 3,600 families impacted by the event.

The national society is finalizing the procurement of these items to replenish the stocks used in this operation.

The national society also distributed drinking water

In recognition of the pressing need to curb the spread of diseases and bolster the support offered to the affected populace, the ARC has expanded the contents of these kits beyond the conventional offerings of shampoo, shower gel, and hygienic towels.

The inclusion of additional hygiene products serves a dual purpose: first and foremost, it acts as a preventive measure against the escalation of diseases within the affected communities. By broadening the range of items within the hygiene kits, the ARC aims to equip individuals with a more comprehensive arsenal to maintain personal hygiene and combat potential health risks.

Moreover, this strategic addition aligns with the humanitarian goal of providing holistic support to those in need. By diversifying the contents to encompass items tailored to address a wider spectrum of hygiene concerns, the ARC endeavors to enhance the overall well-being and resilience of the affected population.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 61,020

**Targeted Persons:** 1

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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## Progress Towards Outcome

The Operations Manager deployed to the National Society has played a pivotal role during their four-month tenure, providing invaluable support in Project Management, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) activities. Additionally, their expertise and guidance have been instrumental in steering and aligning procurement procedures with the established general ground rules. Their contributions have significantly bolstered the National Society's capacity to navigate these critical aspects of operations, ensuring adherence to established protocols and enhancing efficiency in project management and procurement processes.

Unfortunately, due to regional priorities, the procurement surge was not deployed to this operation. The operations manager with the support of the IFRC regional office guided the procurement process.



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 20,992

**Targeted Persons:** 20

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned workshops conducted	1	0
# of DREF trainings conducted	1	1
	-	-



## Progress Towards Outcome

A 4-day DREF training was conducted to 18 attendees from the national society.

Lessons learned workshop is planned to take place during January to capture the challenges and learnings from this operation.

## 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.

### **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

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>417,744</b>
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
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>82,012</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	61,020
National Society Strengthening	20,992
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>499,756</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*

Internal

#V2022.01

[Click here to download the budget file](#)



# Contact Information

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

**National Society contact:** Oussedik Faouzi, ARC advisor, [oussedik@hotmail.com](mailto:oussedik@hotmail.com)

**IFRC Appeal Manager:** Hossam Faysal, Regional Head of Health, Disasters, Climate & Crises (HDCC) Unit - MENA, [hosam.faysal@ifrc.org](mailto:hosam.faysal@ifrc.org)

**IFRC Project Manager:** Hossam Faysal, Acting Head of IFRC Delegation- Algeria, [hosam.faysal@ifrc.org](mailto:hosam.faysal@ifrc.org)

**IFRC focal point for the emergency:** Hosam Faysal, Acting Head of IFRC Delegation- Algeria, [hosam.faysal@ifrc.org](mailto:hosam.faysal@ifrc.org)

**Media Contact:** Samah Taleb, Communication Coordinator, [communication@cra.dz](mailto:communication@cra.dz)

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