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Final Report

Algeria: Forest Wildfires

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

| | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|--|
| DREF Operation n° | MDRDZ008 | Glise n°: | FR-2022-000297-DZA |
| Date of issue: | 10 November 2023 | Expected timeframe: | 4 months, extended for one additional month |
| | | Expected end date: | 28 February 2023 |
| Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow | | | |
| DREF allocated: CHF 369,864 | | | |
| Total number of people affected: | 6,518 ¹ | Number of people to be assisted: | 6,000 people |
| Provinces affected: | 14 governorates (Wilayas): Bejaia, Jijel, Souk Ahras, El Taref, Setif, Skikda, tipaza, tizi- ouzou, Guelma, Batna, Mila, Annaba, Constantine and Bordj Bou Arreridj | Provinces/Regions targeted: | The 8 most affected governorates (Wilayas) (Bejaia, Jijel, Souk Ahras, El Taref, Setif, Skikda, Tizi Ouzou and Guelma) |
| Operating National Society: Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) had 48 local units (National Society sub-divisions that work directly with the community which covers all the country's 48 Wilayas (districts) and have access to 24,000 volunteers. The ARC had mobilized 500 volunteers and 14 staff members for immediate intervention and initial assessments. | | | |
| Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). | | | |
| Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National Algerian Army and National Civil Protection authorities. | | | |

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC), would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

More than 100 fires raged in north-eastern Algeria on the night of Sunday, August 14, 2022, affecting 14 governorates (Wilayas): Bejaia, Jijel, Souk Ahras, El Taref, Setif, Skikda, tipaza, tizi-ouzou, Guelma, Batna, Mila, Annaba, Constantine and Bordj Bou Arreridj.

The fires did not affect inhabited areas in some Wilayas, while in others, the number of people affected was minimal.

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

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

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

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

The 2021 fires broke out in the Wilayas of Tizi Ouzou, Béjaïa, Bouira, Sétif, Jijel, Boumerdès, Bordj Bou Arréridj, Blida, Médéa, Khenchela, Guelma, Tébessa, Tiaret and Skikda. This year's fires have resumed in some Wilayas mentioned above such as Bejaïa, Jijel, Setif, Skikda, Tizi-Ouzou, Guelma and Bordj Bou Arréridj. The extent of the fires differed from one Wilaya to another, for example, the fires that took place in Tiziouzhou this year were less impactful than those of 2021. On the other hand, those of Setif this year had more impact than those of the last. In terms of lost forest area, the losses this year were greater than those of last year.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society Response

Immediately after the onset of the disaster, the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) activated its response protocol including the establishment of a crisis cell to manage the response to this disaster. To support the affected families, ARC mobilized three psychosocial teams, 12 medical personnel, and 500 volunteers. In addition, seven ambulances, three 4x4 cars, and two electric generators were deployed. In coordination with the Civil Protection Authority, ARC used 150 tents to house 2,000 displaced people because of the fires (500 families), as of the date of the reporting, all the affected people have secured shelter. The ARC distributed 3,000 food parcels that covered the needs of 1,500 households (6,000 people) and procured 100 tents, 2,000 mattresses, and 2,000 blankets to replenish the items initially distributed from its stocks. In addition, the ARC built 3 houses using different funding for the 3 most affected families whose houses were completely damaged and delivered them on the 21st of January 2023.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Country

The IFRC MENA Regional Office in Lebanon was immediately engaged in the operation, supporting ARC in monitoring the development of the situation. The IFRC MENA Regional Office provided technical support to the National Society to facilitate the implementation of the planned relief operation.

IFRC works in coordination with the ICRC, which has been present in Algeria since the country's independence in 1954. ICRC's main mandate in Algeria is to support monitoring prison conditions and supports ARC on several files, such as first aid, the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law/Humanitarian Principles, and Restoring Family Links (RFL).

Overview of non-RCRC actors in the country

The Algerian Government deployed more than 7 firefighter helicopters and dispatched fire engines and more than 1,200 firefighters to put out the fires and protect people and property. Some private sector actors have contributed by making ambulances available to the ARC during this period of crisis.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

The Algerian Red Crescent, in coordination with local authorities, carried out an initial assessment of needs and identification of the estimated number of the affected population. The fires burned much of the territory and many people lost their homes and goods. All people displaced due to the fires have been housed after authorities helped them rehabilitate their homes, 3 severely affected families

received the keys to their new houses (built by the ARC) on the 21st of January 2023.

Targeting

Following the initial needs assessment, ARC prioritized two categories of the affected population. The first category is people who have lost their homes to the fires which are estimated around 500 families (2,000 people), this category is considered the highest priority. The second category is people who were affected by the fires on a smaller scale, which is estimated at around 1,000 families (4,000 people), this category has not lost their shelter, however, they have lost their means of subsistence. For example, farmers who have lost their crops and livestock or workers who have lost their jobs and therefore their source of income allowing them to meet their basic needs.

The governorates of Béjaïa, Jijel, Souk Ahras, El Taref, Sétif, Skikda, Tizi Ouzou, and Guelma are the governorates most affected by the forest fires, and many affected people targeted by this reconstitution operation

Operation Risk Assessment

Since August 14, 2022, the number of COVID-19 cases had stabilized at around 100 new cases per day, according to daily bulletins provided by the Ministry of Health. The Government continued to take measures to fight against the pandemic and limit its spread because the slightest relaxation can lead to an exponential increase in the number of cases. ARC provided COVID-19-related support in Algeria by intervening in the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) response, the distribution of personal and family hygiene kits, disinfection campaigns, and the vaccination roll-out with the help of the IFRC COVID-19 appeal. In addition, ARC was also an active member of the national response plan. Continuously, ARC ensured that the volunteers were well protected during their response and supported affected communities as part of this operation. During this operation, the Algerian Red Crescent provided PPE for volunteers to protect them from the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and other transmissible diseases.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

i. Overall Operational objective:

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

ii. Proposed strategy

During the timeframe of this operation, the following activities were carried out:

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

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

- Provided 165 stoves to the most affected families. This was based on feedback from the community during the operation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Some families did not have the means to cook their food, so 156 stoves were procured and provided to the most vulnerable families.

Human Resources

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

Logistics and procurement

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

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

Communications

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

Security

- ARC ensured the visibility of volunteers and staff by availing ARC-branded vests and suits,

- ARC worked in close collaboration with the authorities which gave movement clearance to the volunteers,
- ARC insured 1000 volunteers through the IFRC accident scheme,
- ARC provided all volunteers and staff members with enough PPEs.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

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

Reporting on the operation was carried out in accordance with the IFRC DREF minimum reporting standards. An end-of-operation lessons learned workshop was planned by IFRC and ARC in February, however, the workshop was not conducted due to the deployment of ARC key staff and IFRC regional staff to support with the response to Syria Earthquake that happened to occur at the appointed time for the LLW.

Community engagement and accountability (CEA)


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


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

Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI)


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

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

| | | | |
|--|---|---------------|---------------|
|  | <h3>Shelter</h3> <p>People reached: 2,000 Male: Female:</p> | | |
| <p>Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions</p> | | | |
| Indicators: | | Target | Actual |
| # of people reached with safe and adequate shelter settlement | | 2000 | 2000 |
| <p>Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.</p> | | | |
| Indicators: | | Target | Actual |
| # of households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance | | 500 | 500 |
| <p>Narrative description of achievements</p> <p>The families whose houses were completely damaged, partially making the house unusable, or representing a risk for the household, had to be displaced and housed in tents in different affected regions. ARC volunteers set up the tents and accompanied the affected families in the displacement and the period of staying in the tents, some families were later moved to transit centres, while others were housed by relatives (only women and children). In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, ARC distributed from its stocks 2,000 Mattresses and 2,000 blankets to the displaced families. The community also expressed a need for stoves as they lacked the means to cook their meals and ARC made the decision to replace kitchen sets with 156 stoves for the most affected families. Under this DREF operation, 1,315 mattresses, 1,648 blankets and 63 tents were replenished, in addition to 156 stoves.</p> | | | |
| <p>Challenges</p> <p>The turnover of ARC staff during the implementation of the operation led to delays in reporting and miscommunication regarding IFRC standards and procedures.</p> | | | |
| <p>Lessons Learned</p> <p>IFRC to support ARC in developing a clear system for reporting and documentation to preserve information in case of staff turnover</p> | | | |

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------|---------------|
|  | <h3>Livelihoods and basic needs</h3> <p>People reached: 6000 Male: Female:</p> | | |
| <p>Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods</p> | | | |
| Indicators: | | Target | Actual |
| # of targeted households that have enough food to meet their survival threshold | | 1500 | 1500 |
| <p>Output 1.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities</p> | | | |
| Indicators: | | Target | Target |
| # of people targeted/reached with food assistance. | | 6000 | 6000 |
| <p>Narrative description of achievements</p> <p>ARC supported the 1,500 most affected families (6,000 people) with one-month food parcels. Out of these food parcels, 500 were replenished under this DREF.</p> | | | |

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| Challenges |
| <i>The turnover of ARC staff during the implementation of the operation led to delays in reporting and miscommunication regarding IFRC standards and procedures.</i> |
| Lessons Learned |
| <i>IFRC to support ARC develop a clear system for reporting and documentation to preserve information in case of staff turnover</i> |

| | | |
|---|--|---------------|
|  | Health People reached:6000 Male: Female: | |
| | Health Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened | |
| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
| # of people provided with psychosocial support (disaggregated by gender and age) | 6000 | 5543 |
| Health Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff | | |
| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
| # of PSS workshop conducted | / | / |
| # of Masks distributed | 2500 | 2500 |
| <i>ARC PSS teams went to the homes of the affected families in order to provide the required psychological assistance. No PSS sessions were organized as the preferred method was home visits based on the recommendation of the psychologists. Since the PSS workshops were not conducted, a reallocation of funds occurred, and masks were funded instead. Hence, the ARC purchased 86,550 masks for 4 months and distributed 500 masks to volunteers and 2,000 masks to the affected families.</i> | | |

| | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Strengthen National Society | | |
| <i>Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical, and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences, and capacities to plan and perform</i> | | |
| <i>Output 1.1: National Society had effective and motivated volunteers who are protected (Insured and provided with PPEs)</i> | | |
| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
| # of motivated volunteers who are protected and insured. | 500 | 1000 |
| # of volunteers insured and geared with protective equipment. | 500 | 500 |
| <i>ARC provided the necessary visibility and PPE equipment to its volunteers, including the distribution of 500 masks to 500 volunteers. Also, ARC made sure to ensure 1,000 volunteers.</i> | | |
| <i>Outcome 2: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured</i> | | |
| <i>Output 2.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained</i> | | |
| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
| International support had been coordinated and provided. | Yes | Yes |
| # of surge deployments to the operation through Rapid Response | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Outcome S3.2: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded.</i> | | |
| <i>Output S3.2.1: Resource generation and related accountability models are developed and improved</i> | | |
| # of Lessons Learned workshop | 1 | 0 |
| M&E plan produced | Yes | No |

Narrative description of achievements

*The turnover of ARC staff during the implementation of the operation led to delays in reporting and miscommunication regarding IFRC standards and procedures.
A DREF training and a lesson learned workshop were planned. The DREF training was conducted, however, the lessons learned workshop was cancelled due to deployments of the IFRC relevant staff to support in the response to Syria EQ.*

Challenges**Lessons Learned**

IFRC to support ARC develop a clear system for reporting and documentation to preserve information in case of staff turnover

D. Financial Report

The detailed financial report is available below.

DREF Operation

| Selected Parameters | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2022/9-2023/9 | Operation | MDRDZ008 |
| Budget Timeframe | 2022/9-2023/9 | Budget | APPROVED |

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 27/Oct/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRDZ008 - Algeria - Forest Wildfires

Operating Timeframe: 02 Sep 2022 to 31 Jan 2023

I. Summary

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Opening Balance | 0 |
| Funds & Other Income | 369,864 |
| DREF Response Pillar | 369,864 |
| Expenditure | -185,058 |
| Closing Balance | 184,806 |

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

| Description | Budget | Expenditure | Variance |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items | 151,230 | 91,592 | 59,638 |
| PO02 - Livelihoods | 111,825 | 9,383 | 102,442 |
| PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash | | | 0 |
| PO04 - Health | 12,354 | 15,977 | -3,623 |
| PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | | | 0 |
| PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion | | | 0 |
| PO07 - Education | | | 0 |
| PO08 - Migration | | | 0 |
| PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery | 50,790 | 61,230 | -10,440 |
| PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability | 9,585 | 2,125 | 7,460 |
| PO11 - Environmental Sustainability | | | 0 |
| Planned Operations Total | 335,784 | 180,307 | 155,476 |
| EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships | 2,130 | | 2,130 |
| EA02 - Secretariat Services | 21,300 | 19 | 21,281 |
| EA03 - National Society Strengthening | 10,650 | 4,731 | 5,919 |
| Enabling Approaches Total | 34,080 | 4,750 | 29,330 |
| Grand Total | 369,864 | 185,058 | 184,806 |

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

| Selected Parameters | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2022/9-2023/9 | Operation | MDRDZ008 |
| Budget Timeframe | 2022/9-2023/9 | Budget | APPROVED |

Prepared on 27/Oct/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRDZ008 - Algeria - Forest Wildfires

Operating Timeframe: 02 Sep 2022 to 31 Jan 2023

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

| Description | Budget | Expenditure | Variance |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Relief items, Construction, Supplies | 294,005 | 146,348 | 147,657 |
| Shelter - Relief | 32,000 | | 32,000 |
| Clothing & Textiles | 100,000 | 122,535 | -22,535 |
| Food | 137,000 | 8,811 | 128,189 |
| Medical & First Aid | 15,005 | 15,002 | 3 |
| Utensils & Tools | 10,000 | | 10,000 |
| Personnel | 32,285 | 14,874 | 17,411 |
| International Staff | 20,000 | | 20,000 |
| National Society Staff | | 13,374 | -13,374 |
| Volunteers | 12,285 | 1,500 | 10,785 |
| Workshops & Training | 12,000 | 4,301 | 7,699 |
| Workshops & Training | 12,000 | 4,301 | 7,699 |
| General Expenditure | 9,000 | 8,240 | 760 |
| Travel | | 500 | -500 |
| Information & Public Relations | 9,000 | 4,898 | 4,102 |
| Financial Charges | | 2,843 | -2,843 |
| Indirect Costs | 22,574 | 11,295 | 11,279 |
| Programme & Services Support Recover | 22,574 | 11,295 | 11,279 |
| Grand Total | 369,864 | 185,058 | 184,806 |

Contact information

Reference documents



Click [here](#) for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.