



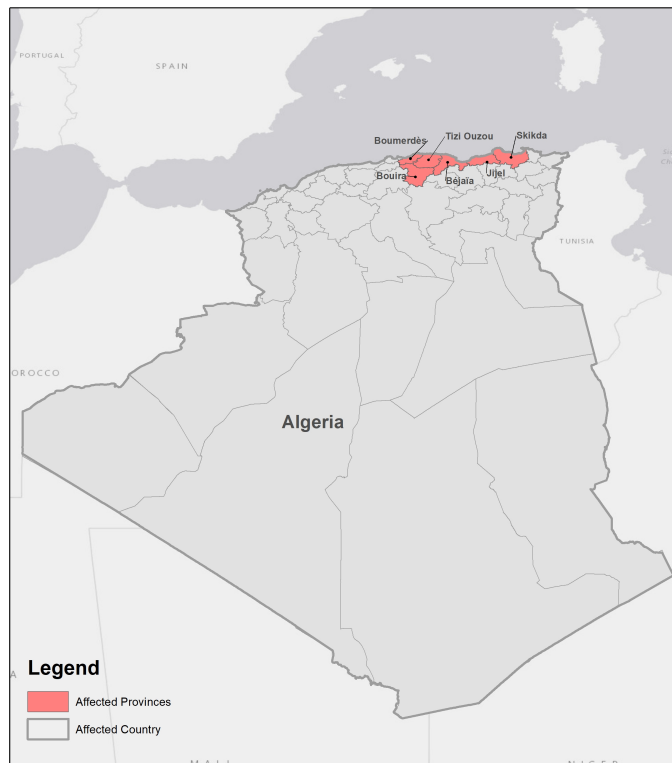
Photo credit: Algeria Red Crescent.

Appeal: MDRDZ009	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 499,756	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Fire
Glide Number: WF-2023-000124-DZA	People Affected: 30,000 people	People Targeted: 19,500 people	People Assisted: 19,500 people
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 07-08-2023	Operational End Date: 31-01-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Targeted Areas: Bejaia, Bouira, Tizi Ouzou, Jijel, Skikda, Boumerdes			

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event

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.

Date of event

24-07-2023

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 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 had 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 had 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 had 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.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC had been supporting 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.
Participating National Societies	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	The Algerian Government deployed around 12 aircrafts and 6 water bombers to control the fires, in addition to the participation of 8,000 civil defense personnel, 529 vehicles,

	and 10 military convoys from other regions in the country. The government also participated in the evacuation and rescue of 1,500 people who were stranded by the fires. The national authorities requested the Algerian Red Crescent Society to participate in the response to this event and continue to coordinate with the national society on the response operation.
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 were getting filled quickly. At the time of submitting this request, 3,880 people were very sheltered in the temporary shelters provided by the national authorities, while others were either staying in tents provided by the national society or had relocated to stay with relatives. These people had lost their shelters and their shelter items and need 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 chickens 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) 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 were not addressed under this operation but were 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 remains 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 aimed 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 aimed to 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 were working on addressing the long-term needs of the affected population. The national society planned 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 was targeted by 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 were either residing in the shelters prepared by the authorities or in tents provided by the national society until they were relocated to permanent shelters.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The operation attempted 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 were in need of 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.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 123,165

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Assisted Persons: 2,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of mattresses distributed	2,000	2,000

# of blankets distributed	2,000	2,000
# of tents distributed	50	50

Narrative description of achievements

- 2000 mattresses were distributed to 2000 persons affected by the wildfires.
- 2000 blankets were distributed to 2000 persons affected by the wildfires.
- 50 tents were distributed to host the displaced because of the wildfires.
- Procurement for blankets was made in January to replenish the ARC stocks.

Lessons Learnt

- Adequate distribution of relief items such as mattresses, blankets, and tents to meet the immediate needs of individuals affected by wildfires.
- Importance of timely procurement to replenish stocks of essential items like blankets, ensuring preparedness for future disasters.
- Efficient logistics planning and management to ensure smooth distribution of relief items to affected populations.
- Addressing the immediate shelter needs of displaced individuals through the provision of tents.
- Recognizing the critical role of pre-positioned stocks in disaster preparedness and response efforts.

Challenges

- Distribution lists containing the names of persons receiving blankets and mattresses are impossible to obtain.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 193,184

Targeted Persons: 19,500

Assisted Persons: 19,500

Indicators

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

Narrative description of achievements

- The food parcels were distributed according to the agreed planning; 19,500 individuals benefited from food parcels for 3 months.
- A purchase was made in December for food parcels to replenish the stocks.

Challenges

Due to cultural sensitivities, we were unable to obtain distribution lists of the beneficiaries. As an alternative, we have secured an official document from the governor of the implementation area, confirming that the aid was received and distributed to the affected population.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 101,395

Targeted Persons: 18,750

Assisted Persons: 18,750

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of hygiene kits distributed	3,750	3,750
# of families receiving water	3,600	3,600

Narrative description of achievements

- Hygiene kits were distributed to the families for a period of three months.
- Drinking water was distributed to the families that benefited from it for three months following the disaster.
- A procurement was made in January 2024 regarding these items in order to replenish the stocks of ARC.

Lessons Learnt

- While distributing hygiene kits and drinking water immediately after a disaster is crucial, ensuring that these provisions continue for an extended period of three months highlights the importance of sustained support for affected communities.
- Reflecting on the effectiveness of the aid provided over the three months can inform future strategies. It's essential to continuously evaluate the impact of assistance and adapt interventions based on feedback from the affected communities.
- Following the IFRC procedures in terms of procurement allows the National Society to follow up with the financial reporting and to submit the correct supporting documents in time.

Challenges

Due to cultural sensitivities, we were unable to obtain distribution lists of the beneficiaries. As an alternative, we have secured an official document from the governor of the implementation area, confirming that the aid was received and distributed to the affected population.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 61,020

Targeted Persons: 1

Assisted Persons: 1

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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Narrative description of achievements

- An Ops manager was deployed to the National Society to assist the personnel with different aspects of the work.
- Purchase and tenders procedures were assisted by the Ops manager.
- PMER was also assisted by the ops manager including the reporting tools and monitoring to follow up with the advancement of the operation.

Lessons Learnt

- An ops manager is an added value to operations when it comes to supporting the national society with different aspects of the operation.





Budget: CHF 20,992

Targeted Persons: 20

Assisted Persons: 20

Indicators

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

Narrative description of achievements

On January 29, 2024, a workshop was held at the National Training Center of the Algerian Red Crescent to discuss lessons learned from emergency humanitarian response operations through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) carried out by the Algerian Red Crescent in response to wildfires.

The workshop was attended by volunteers from various Algerian provinces that have recently been significantly affected by wildfires, recurring disasters in recent years.

The workshop was opened by the Programs Coordinator at the Algerian Red Crescent and the workshop supervisor, where the Red Crescent movement and its seven principles were introduced.

The supervisor then proceeded to present the workshop content as agreed upon earlier with Dr. Farah and Mr. Ahmed, based on the document sent by them.

Through interactive workshop presentations and purposeful exercises using brainstorming and SWAT analysis on the intervention methods carried out by Algerian Red Crescent volunteers during the wildfires, important lessons were derived.

Key takeaways from the workshop include:

- Identifying weaknesses accurately.
- Understanding how to deal with current and unexpected points during the disaster.
- Clarifying strengths and available opportunities for investment in optimal preparation and reducing future anticipated risks.
- Drafting common good practices for provinces frequently affected by wildfires.
- Proposing periodic training camps (3 annually) to enhance volunteers' capabilities and teach them effective and successful disaster intervention practices.

After 9 hours of work, including 3 breaks (2 tea breaks and 1 lunch break), the workshop concluded.

- The volunteers per diems were distributed.
- A DREF training for 20 persons from the NS HQ and branches was made for the period of three days.

Lessons Learnt

- Accurate identification of weaknesses in emergency humanitarian response operations.
- Learning to effectively handle current and unexpected challenges during disasters.
- Clarification of strengths and available opportunities for better preparation and risk reduction in future disasters.
- Development of common good practices tailored for provinces frequently affected by wildfires.
- Proposal for periodic training camps (3 annually) to enhance volunteer capabilities and impart effective disaster intervention practices.

Challenges

- Lack of a clear memo that describes the amounts of per diems given to each volunteer.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRDZ009 - Algeria - wild fires

Operating Timeframe: 07 Aug 2023 to 29 Feb 2024

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/08-2024/12	Operation	MDRDZ009
Budget Timeframe	*	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 06/Mar/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	499,756
DREF Response Pillar	499,756
Expenditure	-458,207
Closing Balance	41,549

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	111,582	118,827	-7,245
PO02 - Livelihoods	187,668	199,884	-12,216
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health			0
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	106,074	112,959	-6,885
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	30,502		30,502
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	435,826	431,670	4,156
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	55,218	17,244	37,974
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	8,713	9,292	-579
Enabling Approaches Total	63,932	26,537	37,395
Grand Total	499,757	458,207	41,551

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Oussedik Faouzi, ARC advisor, oussedik@hotmail.com

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

IFRC Project Manager: Hossam Faysal, Acting Head of IFRC Delegation- Algeria, hosam.faysal@ifrc.org

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Hosam Faysal, Acting Head of IFRC Delegation- Algeria, hosam.faysal@ifrc.org

Media Contact: Communication Coordinator, communication@cra.dz

[Click here for reference](#)

