

Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Tunisia/North Africa: Cold wave

DREF operation n° MDRTN005 10 February, 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 129,179 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries) living in rural areas affected by the unusual cold wave since the end of January. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: An unusual and exceptional cold wave and heavy snowfall (the worst for the last 20 years) have been recorded in Tunisia since 31 January in the North West and inland regions, isolating villages and cutting roads. The most affected regions are: Jandouba, Kef, Kassrine, Siliana and Bizerta.



Ain Draham region is one of the affected areas in the North Western Tunisia. Photo: **TAP (Tunisian African Press)**

The weather forecasts have predicted that the cold weather and snow blast will continue for the next few days as well, potentially causing further damages to cities and villages, and also shortages in electricity and blockage of transportation by road.

The Tunisian Red Crescent is working to support the most vulnerable people who are living in remote rural areas. The assistance will consist in the provision of food parcels, mattresses and blankets.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will therefore be completed by 09 April, 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 09 July, 2012). [<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details >](#)

The situation

Heavy snowfalls have completely isolated several villages, which are cut off, over the past few days. They don't have electricity and due to heavily snowing weather conditions, which is reaching almost 1 meter, the affected people cannot get access to their firewood or cattle food. The only way to reach and supply these villages was by military helicopters. These are mainly families with children, most often below the poverty level. Most of them are in an urgent need.

Intense snowfall in many parts of the regions caused the total of 30,000 affected families across five regions: Jandouba, Kef, Kassrine, Siliana and Bizerta. According to the government, 350 schools in North West have put the classes on hold.

Coordination and partnerships

The government appointed on the 6th of February two coordinators to monitor the situation in the North West which has remained isolated since Friday and blocked by large snowfall. An emergency committee has been tasked to coordinate the efforts of all stakeholders, namely: the ministries of National Defence, Interior, Social Affairs/solidarity and Transport.

The government has initiated actions to support people in the snow-blocked villages. Cooperation has been established with the Ministry of Defence, local authorities and civil protection services who are working together to rescue people and supply remote villages with food items and medicines.

IFRC North Africa office has supported the Tunisian Red Crescent in assessing the needs and defining the emergency response plan.

The Tunisian Red Crescent is in close contact with Ministries and local authorities concerned by the emergency response.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The current exceptional cold wave (the worst in the country for the last 20 years) has created a serious humanitarian situation in the mountainous regions of the country.

The Tunisian Red Crescent, through its Headquarter and local branches, has been closely assessing the situation together with the authorities in the affected area.

The beneficiary groups in need are: homeless people, people living below the poverty level, unemployed people, and elderly people. These groups usually vulnerable and the cold wave has pushed them in a critical situation, not being able to meet their essential basic needs.

The assistance will be provided by the Tunisian Red Crescent staff and volunteers through the distribution of blankets, food parcels and mattresses. The operation will be implemented in the localities where the cold wave has been the most severe, namely: Ain Draham, Ghardimaou, Sakiat Sidi Youssef, Tala, Fernana, Kessra, Sejnane, Majel Belabes.

The needs

Based on the preliminary assessment made so far by the assessment team, a list of targeted families was prepared according to the following repartition:

Region	Locality	Nb of families
Jandouba	Ain Draham	100
	Ghardimaou	250
	Fernana	150
Kef	Sakiat Sidi Youssef	50
Kassrine	Tala	200
	Majel Belabes.	30
Sililana	Kessra	60
Bizerta	Sejnane	160

Needs per family are: Food parcel, 2 blankets and 2 mattresses.

Food parcel

Item	Unit	Quantities
Tomato	Kg	03
Couscous	Kg	03
Pasta	Kg	02
Sugar	Kg	02
Milk	Liters	04
Soja oil	Liters	04
Jam	Kg	01
Tuna	Grs	400
Semolina	Kg	05

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: Providing emergency assistance (basic food and non-food items) to 1,000 families (approximately 5,000 people)

Output: The essential needs of 1,000 families are met.

Activities planned:

- Continuous cooperation with the local and national emergency committees
- Mobilization of staff and volunteers in the 5 regions the most affected.
- Preparation of the distribution plan.
- Local procurement of emergency items
- Distribution of emergency items by the Tunisian Red Crescent staff and volunteers according to beneficiaries' identification and targeted list.
- Media coverage to promote the Tunisian Red Crescent response
- Monitoring and evaluation

The National Society's Headquarters, in close cooperation with the IFRC Regional Representation, will monitor the progress and provide the necessary technical expertise to the operation. Visibility of the work of the Red Crescent staff and volunteers will be ensured during the operation through the local media. Operation updates will be published later on.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Gerard Lautredou, + 216 71 862 485; mob: + 216 71 862 971; email: gerard.lautredou@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Zone:** Dr. Hosam Faysal, DM Coordinator, MENA Zone; phone: +961 (0)5 956 058 ; mob+961 71 802 916: email: hosam.faysal@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support, Phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):**

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC MENA Zone:** Paul Emes, Head of Support Services, Phone: + 961 71 802 911, Email: paul.emes@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- **In IFRC Zone:** Ms. Hadeel Halasah, PMER, Email : hadeel.halasah@ifrc.org



Click here

1. DREF budget [below](#)
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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 Disaster 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.

www.ifrc.org

Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
-

TUNISIA COLD WAVE

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	68,800
Food	20,000
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	88,800
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	13,700
Transport & Vehicle Costs	13,700
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	27,400
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	
Volunteers	1,350
Total PERSONNEL	1,350
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	

Information & Public Relations	
Office Costs	2,000
Communications	1,000
Financial Charges	745
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	3,745
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	7,884
Total INDIRECT COSTS	7,884
TOTAL BUDGET	129,179