



PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY Preliminary Emergency Appeal 2009- Gaza Strip



Problem statement:

On December 27, 2008, Israel launched massive air raids against the Gaza Strip. The attacks are ongoing, with the death toll reaching 390, in addition to, over 1,700 injured, of which these numbers are expected to rise with the continuation of the Gaza medical capacity to cope with the over-load of the casualties. The suffering wounded has been aggravated as a consensus of inability of prompt evacuation from the scene and provision appropriate care.

Hospital operating rooms are occupied to the maximum and are running out of essential medicines. Electricity supply is poor and most towns are cut off from any power supply between 14 to 18 hours a day. Water is becoming a problem, as the pumping stations are no longer running properly (lack of power, lack of access). In addition, two water wells are damaged or destroyed by the air strikes (East Jabalia and near the PRCS hospital) affecting around 40,000 people. For the time being, the population is coping with storage tanks on roofs.

Preliminary PRCS Emergency Appeal 2009- Gaza Strip

The hospitals are seriously understaffed and unable to handle the influx of injuries, in addition to, a shortage of space and supplies. The indiscriminate attack in the area of PRCS headquarters resulted in tremendous material loss in the hospitals, emergency centers and the administrative building, in addition to three vehicles including an ambulance.

Palestine Red Crescent Society has provided extra staff for the hospitals. PRCS staff and volunteers have been part of the effort to evacuate the dead and wounded from damaged or destroyed buildings. Approximately 100 PRCS volunteers, 60 emergency medical technicians and 120 medical staff were actively involved in the emergency care for victims in Gaza. The focus being, evacuating the wounded, providing first aid, triage and transfer to hospitals, including, PRCS hospitals in Gaza and Khan Younis. The EMS department evacuated more than 1500 cases to-date.

Accordingly PRCS has launched a 6-month preliminary emergency appeal with a total budget of **6,826,874 USD** covering medical supplies, equipment, relief items and ambulances in addition to core cost of the main services provided in Gaza Strip.

Expected Scenarios:

However, the followings are the most likely expected scenarios for this emergency situation in Gaza Strip:

- According to the Israeli declarations, military ground operations are expected to take place;
- Mass casualties will occur;
- Internal displacement of the population in Gaza to the borders and/or other places.

Gaza current situation indicators:

Israel has intensified the blockade on the Gaza Strip imposed in June 2007.

The 18-month Israeli blockade has created a profound human dignity crisis, leading to a widespread erosion of livelihoods and a significant deterioration in infrastructure and

essential services. For instance, unemployment has risen from 32.3% in the second quarter of 2007 to an unprecedented 49.1% in the same period of 2008. In addition, more than 79% of Gaza's households lived below the official poverty line (4 US \$ per capita/day) and almost 70% below the deep poverty line (3 US \$ capita/per day). To this effect, the consequences for the Palestinian population are profound, pervasive and difficult to reverse.

Situation Analysis:

After the outbreak in 2000 of the second intifada, the population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has experienced a constant deterioration of the economic, humanitarian, security, and political situation in the oPt, leaving a rapidly growing part of the population unemployed, fighting against poverty, completely dependent on foreign aid, and in some areas on the brink of starvation. While the Gaza Strip is totally under siege and almost completely isolated from the rest of the world, the population of the West Bank is facing ever-growing problems with their life, as movement restrictions imposed on them through a travel permit system, and roadblocks and checkpoints create huge obstacles for all groups of life. A majority of the Palestinian refugees in the Diaspora are facing growing isolation and poverty, with very limited options for covering their own financial needs.

The economy in the Gaza Strip has almost completely collapsed, with more than 80 per cent of the population dependent on financial or other kind of support from the RC/RC Movement, United Nations agencies, and on the few international organizations still being able to operate under the tight blockade of the area, causing shortage of all possible commodities. With very limited import of fuel, spare parts, building material, or even the most basic goods, the people and the international organizations are struggling to cope, and international concern for the short and long-term consequences is growing rapidly. In the West Bank, movement restrictions for the entire population and the separation wall are leaving the Palestinian government and a growing part of the population with few alternatives. There is a rely on foreign aid and the economy is in total dependency on financial injections from the European Union, United States of America, the Gulf states

and other donor countries. Under these conditions, the Palestine RC is not able to generate much income from its humanitarian programs or other activities, leaving the National Society almost totally dependent on financial support from its many RC/RC and other partners to be able to run its many humanitarian programs.

Overall Goal:

Ensure and contribute in enabling Palestinians to obtain humanitarian health and relief assistance and services.

Background

The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), officially founded in December 1968, is a national humanitarian organization. Since its establishment, it caters to the health and welfare of the Palestinian people and others in need in the OPT and the Diaspora. It has 4,200 employees in oPt (West Bank and Gaza Strip), Lebanon, Syria and Egypt in addition to its volunteer network of more than 20,000 people.

PRCS strives to ease human suffering through its Emergency Medical Services (EMS), preventive and curative health care services, rehabilitation, volunteer activities, and programs promoting social and cultural development, with a focus on the most vulnerable members of the society. PRCS also focuses on the dissemination of the humanitarian values, the fundamental principles of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, in addition to International Humanitarian Law.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society was mandated in 1969 to provide humanitarian, health, cultural and social services when and where needed to the Palestinian population. Following the 1993 Oslo peace accord and the formal establishment of a Ministry of Health (MOH) by the Palestinian Authority (PA), PRCS, in 1996 and 1999, was mandated by the Palestinian Authority to provide National Ambulance and Blood Transfusion and Pre-Hospital Emergency Services in oPt and Health Service in the Diaspora. The PRCS assumed the role of a complementary body to the public

Preliminary PRCS Emergency Appeal 2009- Gaza Strip

authorities, targeting the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups within the Palestinian population. The PRCS has become one of the main non-profit providers of medical and social welfare services in the oPt. Despite the many obstacles and difficulties, the PRCS persists in providing humanitarian services and support to its people, through its branches in Palestine, as well as in Arab countries where Palestinians reside in large numbers.

The PRCS is a full member of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and therefore adheres to the Movement's basic principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

The deteriorating humanitarian situation in oPt and Diaspora, coupled with the continued financial crisis, internal strife and recurrent Israeli military incursions into the oPt, put more strain on the National Society's ability to provide essential services to the population as a result of increased numbers of people requiring emergency care in hospitals and health centers.

The Palestine RCS was facing financial difficulties during 2006-2007, due to the humanitarian and financial crisis that has affected the Palestinian population. As a result, the National Society launched two emergency appeals that aimed to secure the needed financial support. This support was necessary to maintain implementation of the planned activities as well as to maintain core services including PRCS management in order to secure delivery of essential services to the Palestinian population.

Eventually, PRCS needs three pronged approach focusing on a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan:

- Strengthening its priority core functions (the provision of sufficient staffed and operational ambulance, with spares to allow for maintenance and surge capacity, to ensure that all areas of Palestine have access to ambulance service in a reasonable time in case of medical or traumatic emergency; 30 clinics, 6 hospitals, central blood bank, relief/disaster operations, and central/regional management and coordination mechanisms).

Preliminary PRCS Emergency Appeal 2009- Gaza Strip

- Reinforce readiness by building surge capacity at district/branch levels with medical/surgical kits, additional ambulances, relief items and emergency shelter, volunteer mobilization, mobile clinics, surveillance, support to selected non- PRCS facilities, and other critical items including telecom, emergency water/fuel/blood/Oxygen, etc.
- Focus on prevention, health promotion, home based care, outreach and early detection through branches, clinics and community volunteers.

To this effect and in order to tackle the continuous deterioration of the humanitarian situation and alleviate its negative impact on the wellbeing of the Palestinian population with possible long term consequences, financial support is needed to enable the Palestine RCS to deliver its essential services to the vulnerable groups, where support for the core cost of the delivered services is also needed.

Thus, the results to be obtained will be as follows:

- Palestinians in Gaza will continue to receive health/medical care provided by PRCS hospitals in Gaza
- Health/medical care provided by PRCS hospitals in Gaza will be improved
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will be expanded and improved
- Management and Coordination of PRCS health/medical care will be ensured in the present emergency situation

PRCS Essential Services

❖ PRCS Hospitals

PRCS provides curative, surgical and specialized healthcare services in hospitals and health centers in the OPT and Diaspora. PRCS has established and operates six hospitals in the OPT to provide services where the means are limited and the needs are great.

Taking in to consideration that in Gaza two hospitals are operating as follows:

- ***PRCS Al-Quds Hospital:*** In Gaza City, PRCS operates Al-Quds Hospital that delivers emergency and medical services to the Palestinian population since 2000. This Hospital is contracted with the MoH in addition to private insurance companies

Preliminary PRCS Emergency Appeal 2009- Gaza Strip

to deliver its services to the Palestinian population taking into consideration that it constitutes of 232 staff and 100 beds.

- ***PRCS Al-Amal Hospital:*** In Khan Younis /Gaza Strip (southern part), PRCS operates Al-Amal Hospital that delivers general medical services to the Palestinian population. This Hospital is contracted with the MoH to deliver its services to the Palestinian population taking into consideration that it constitutes *of 173 staff and 100 beds*.

Objective

- To secure the continuation of PRCS hospital services in Gaza

Expected Results

- Medical, surgical and disposable supplies are delivered in time and in sufficient quantities to the hospitals. Stocks are replenished and maintained.
- Financial support for operational running cost of the hospitals are secured and promoted.

❖ **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**

Providing emergency medical and relief services to Palestinians is considered to be one of PRCS' most important activities since its inception. In 1996, it was mandated by the Late President, Yasser Arafat, to provide emergency medical services in Palestine. The PRCS has been providing a well organized and professionally trained Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the public, under increasingly difficult and challenging conditions. The PRCS accomplishes the provision of this service through: a national "101" telephone number, the headquarters in Ramallah, 8 main stations and 23 substations in the West Bank; 6 main stations and 1 substation in Gaza; and, an average of 44 vehicles staffed and on-duty 24 hours a day. Responses to requests for service average 7200 calls/month or ~240 calls/day.

The recipients of the PRCS EMS services can be divided into two basic categories:

- those in need of immediate assistance due to acute illness or injury

Preliminary PRCS Emergency Appeal 2009- Gaza Strip

- those requiring transportation by ambulance due to chronic illness or disability. Although under the care of a physician, this latter group is forced, because of the restriction of movement imposed by the current political situation, to use the ambulance service to access required medical facilities.

Thus, the ability of the PRCS to provide the rapid response to requests for ambulance service, especially to emergency cases, has been made increasingly difficult due to checkpoints and road closures. This situation has been further exacerbated by weakening of the security infrastructure. The demand on the services of EMS will continue to increase in this period of instability.

Objectives

- To ensure the continuation of EMS services to the Palestinians in Gaza
- To reduce the response time for the Emergency in Gaza

Expected Results

- PRCS EMS system continues to provide the public with 24-hour ambulance services throughout Gaza
- Damaged Ambulances are replaced
- Standard ambulances are procured and are functioning

❖ Disaster Management

The PRCS Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response (DP/DR) program is based on coordination of decentralization preparedness, mobility, swift response, response management and improved surveillance. The key scenarios entail preparedness and response to both conflict and natural disasters. The coordination and follow-up mission of DP/DR program supports interdepartmental and inter-branch integration of activities and the development of shared goals and objectives. Decision-making is through the Disaster Management Group (with representation from different departments and branches) to ensure optimal use of resources. The disaster management unit is preparing for and working on a plan to deploy contingency stocks of non-food relief items at strategic locations in case of crises, as well as providing equipment and mobile medical

posts. The development of the situation is monitored from four locations around OPT, where operation/emergency rooms can be activated on the spot. Implementation mechanisms are the rapid damage assessment surveillance system, the advanced medical post and the referral services.

Nevertheless, in response to the harsh humanitarian situation in Gaza Strip, the operation room in Gaza was activated as well as the 3 ops rooms in the West Bank including the main central one in the PRCS HQ in Al-Bireh so as to follow up the developments of the situation in both the West Bank & Gaza Strip.

Objectives

- To reduce the response time for crisis and disaster
- To secure the continuation of effective operational coordination between disaster management and other essential services.

Expected Results

- Deployment of advanced medical post and referral hospitals when needed
- Coverage of the blood needs and provision of blood for hospitals
- Well functioning surveillance and early warning system

❖ Management and Coordination PRCS Gaza Strip

All PRCS programs and activities in Gaza Strip are monitored by the PRCS Administration, Gaza Strip. The branches, sub-branches, hospitals, PHC clinics, and EMS stations in the Gaza Strip implement all the activities of PRCS. The PRCS Administration in Gaza Strip acts to coordinate, follow-up and ensure inter-departmental and inter-branch integration and overall alignment of goals and objectives. Decision-making, in the event of a humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip (natural or man-made disaster), is done through the local Disaster Management Group, which is comprised of different Heads of Departments. This ensures optimal use of all the resources available, as and when required.

Objective

- To secure the operational capacity of PRCS Administration in Gaza Strip to manage, coordinate and maintain *PRCS Essential Humanitarian Services* provided for the population in Gaza Strip

Expected Results

- PRCS Gaza Strip Administration continues to efficiently manage, coordinate and maintain *Essential Humanitarian Services* in the Gaza Strip. This includes:
 - Management of operational capacity of *Essential Services*, including human resources
 - Management of supplies, procurement and utilization of resources
 - Management of logistics network including warehouses, fleet and telecommunications.

PRCS Preliminary EA 2009- Gaza Strip

Preliminary PRCS Emergency Appeal 2009- Gaza Strip

Preliminary EA 2009- Gaza Strip Budget:

Item	TOTAL COST IN US \$
Medicines and Disposables	2,350,000
Equipment	410,720
Relief and shelter	2,408,000
Renovation	250,000
Ambulances	650,000
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>6,068,720</i>
LOCAL PERSONNEL	
Al Quds / Gaza Hospital (50%)	264,090
Al Amal / Khan Yunis Hospital (50%)	155,910
Management and Coordination - Gaza (10%)	69,474
<i>Sub-Total LOCAL PERSONNEL</i>	<i>489,474</i>
RUNNING COST	
Management and Coordination: Running Cost Gaza	
Water, electricity Al Amal - Khan Younis	1,680
Fuel, maintenance, insurance - Al Amal, Khan Younis	16,800
Communication - Al Amal, Khan Younis	4,200
Water, electricity - Al-Nur, Gaza City	
Fuel, maintenance, insurance - Al-Nur, Gaza City	25,200
Communication - Al-Nur, Gaza City	8,400
<i>Sub-Total Running Cost Management and Coordination Gaza Strip</i>	<i>56,280</i>
Al Amal / Khan Yunis Hospital : Communication, water, electricity, transportation cost	
Communication costs	4,200
Catering	21,000
Cleaning Material	21,000
Fuel	16,800
<i>Sub-total Running Cost Al Amal / Khan Yunis Hospital Gaza Strip</i>	<i>63,000</i>
Al Quds / Gaza Hospital : Communication, water, electricity, transportation cost	
Communication costs	8,400
Catering	25,200
Cleaning Material	21,000
Fuel	16,800
<i>Sub-Total Running Cost Al Quds / Gaza Strip</i>	<i>71,400</i>
Al Quds / Gaza Hospital : Communication, water, electricity, transportation cost	
Communication costs	6,000
Catering	12,000
Incentive and Transportation	60,000
<i>Sub-Total Running Cost Al Quds / Gaza Strip</i>	<i>78,000</i>
TOTAL DIRECT COST	6,826,874