



PALESTINE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY



PRCS Emergency Appeal 2021

(First Revision)

To Support Its Humanitarian and Emergency Medical Services

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Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS)



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PRCS appeal for escalation of hostilities and unrest situation in oPt

Date of issue: May11, 2021

Last update: May 20,2021

Expected end date: 31/12/2021

Funds Required: \$ **18,596,142**

Total number of people affected by the current crisis: 3 million

Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):

The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), officially founded in 1968, is a national humanitarian organization with an independent legal personality and is one of the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. PRCS mission is to provide humanitarian, relief, health, and social services to Palestinian people in Palestine and in Palestinian refugee camps in neighboring countries. Its mission as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field, is endorsed and mandated by Palestinian national institutions and the decisions of the Palestinian National Council and is in accordance with the Movement's statutes, the Geneva Conventions, and the Movement's Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, volunteerism, unity, and universality.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society has around 4,200 employees in Palestine, and in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt, and has an active network of more than 4,500 youth and volunteers. The main services provided by PRCS include the pre-hospital emergency services (EMS) with 182 ambulances, 400 emergency medics (EMT) and more than 2,000 trained volunteers, 15 EMS main stations and 33 substations covering all Palestine including East Jerusalem. PRCS also provides community and primary health care services through 28 primary health centers (13 in Palestine, six in Syria, and nine in Lebanon), hospital care through 13 hospitals (five in Palestine, five in Lebanon, and three in Syria), rehabilitation services for people with disabilities through 11 centers, and comprehensive community interventions.

1. Situation Overview

The humanitarian situation in Gaza is deteriorating rapidly as fighting intensifies. The recent escalation has resulted in more casualties among the civilian population including children, as well as increased number of displaced civilians as a result of the destruction of buildings and the intensification of attacks on wider areas within the Gaza Strip.

PRCS' emergency operations room and its emergency medical services are dealing with increasing numbers of casualties including critical injuries and deaths. The efforts to provide shelter to the civilian people forced out of their homes because of direct attacks on their buildings or on their neighborhoods are being hindered by the intensified fighting and the inability to coordinate safe access and safe shelter locations. Furthermore to the COVID-19 pandemic impact, the recent escalations taking a toll on the physical and psychological wellbeing of the civilian population of Gaza, includes children.

Coordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH) is ongoing, regular discussions focused on the needs of the affected population, and the readiness of medical services to provide care



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and support are taking place. In this context, PRCS' Al-Quds hospital in Gaza city has activated its operation rooms and medical teams to assist with casualties, in addition to its emergency medical teams, which are continuing to operate under the burden of bombing and a precarious humanitarian situation.

In East Jerusalem, confrontations continued around the old city and at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound. With 30 staff members, 100 volunteers and 15 ambulances- including one mini car (tuk-tuk) for the old city, the PRCS Emergency Medical Teams (EMS) have been providing humanitarian and emergency medical assistance throughout the city, including in and around Damascus Gate, Al Aqsa Mosque and Sheikh Jarrah. PRCS has set-up a temporary Advanced Medical Post (AMP) in Al Suwwana neighborhood in East Jerusalem, to provide first aid and emergency services to the mild to moderate cases with the aim of reducing the injured influx to hospitals.

Confrontations across the West Bank at Israeli military checkpoints and around Palestinian cities and towns are ongoing with continued calls for protests and marches. PRCS emergency medical teams and volunteers have been providing emergency medical services to a growing number of casualties.

2. Update Situation – 10th May to 19th May, 2021

The hostilities in the Gaza Strip escalated in what has become the heaviest flare-up since 2014 Gaza war. Clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces across the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, intensified during the last days.

Gaza Strip

According to Palestinian MoH, more than 219 Palestinians, including 63 children, 35 women (of whom three were pregnant) and 121 men, have been killed in the Gaza Strip and more than 2000 injured.

Essential infrastructures have been damaged, resulting in an additional decline in public access to basic services across the Gaza Strip. According to the Health Cluster, among those, 6 hospitals, 11 primary health care centers and the central testing laboratory for COVID-19 have been damaged, which is currently not being able to operate.

According to OHCHR, at least 75.000 people were displaced, of which 47.000 are seeking for protection and shelter in UNRWA schools.

Furthermore, electricity and drinking water are permanently scarce commodities. The border crossings with Israel have been completely closed since May 10th, and no fuel is being delivered. Diesel is already in short supply, a fuel that is urgently needed – for ambulances and electricity generators, among other things. Foodstuffs are in risk of getting scarce as well.

West Bank and East Jerusalem

As a result of the intensified clashes across the West Bank and East Jerusalem, 27 Palestinians were killed (including 4 children) since the 7th May 2021 and more than 6.000 (including more than 80 children) have been injured by Israeli forces.

International Humanitarian Law Violations against PRCS teams and facilities

More than 31 violations incidents against the PRCS teams and vehicles have been recorded in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Violations include obstruction, delays, attacks on EMS teams and vehicles. There has also been partial destruction of PRCS and other Movement



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partners (Qatari Red Crescent) facilities in Gaza including the newly opened regional warehouse and the PRCS office in Jabalya, north of Gaza.

3. How is PRCS Responding?

PRCS is the leading humanitarian organization providing emergency medical services across all Palestine. The EMS assistance is provided through different centers, and the emergency advanced medical posts, as well as at the PRCS hospitals.

As fighting and attacks across Gaza escalates, the scale and nature of impact is widening, affecting nearly all of Gaza's civilian population. On 10th May, PRCS activated its central operations room in Gaza, and all branches, centers, staff, and volunteers have been deployed.

The current PRCS capacity to the increasing cases of casualties include 28 ambulances with 420 emergency medical personnel and volunteers, and currently the Al-Quds hospital is receiving cases and utilizes its operation rooms and intensive care units, as a backup to MoH facilities.

The same situation applies to PRCS readiness in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, where the emergency warning level has been increased to four since the beginning of clashes in Jerusalem on 7th May. All branches, centers, staff and volunteers have been on high alert after the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated and continuously respond. In East Jerusalem, the emergency medical teams have been under tremendous strain as attacks on worshipers at Al-Aqsa mosque and youth near Damascus Gate have been intensifying every day and night since 7 May.

Gaza Strip – Update up to 19th May 2021

In Gaza, PRCS dealt with the accumulative number of cases reached 962, including 83 deaths, and 225 targeted buildings.

NFis and food parcel distribution are underway to families whose homes have been destroyed.

West Bank and East Jerusalem -Update up to 19th May 2021

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, PRCS team dealt with the accumulative number of cases reached a total of 6.301 including 9 deaths.

4. Emergency response plan

The activities carried out by the various PRCS departments and teams must be scaled up and funded in order to meet the growing demands brought on by the current crisis. Communications capabilities and preparedness to assist emergency operations with positioning, profiling, and resource mobilization are among them. Other support activities that may need to be scaled up include information and data collection and management, as well as the mobility and capability of branches and centers to support other areas, as required. **Annex 2 contains the detailed list of needs.**



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Considering the current situation, three response actions are being prioritized across the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. The current plan will be reviewed and adjusted as the situation evolves and as needed.

Priority 1: Enhanced readiness and response capacity of emergency medical services and hospital capacities in Gaza Strip

The capacity of the EMS teams and the Al-Quds hospital have been fully stretched and as the fighting intensifies it is expected that these capacities and medical supplies will be exhausted. Furthermore, as the attacks on the Gaza Strip impact more buildings and areas, more families are being displaced and seeking shelter which lead to more demand for the relief and food items.

As soon as the safety situation permits, the teams will start the assessments of the extent of damage, the type and nature of humanitarian and medical assistance required, as well as initial rehabilitation of PRCS services and capacities.

Special precautions and considerations in view of the covid-19 situation are taken as best as possible under the given circumstances, especially when assisting those needing shelter, as well as all medical and transportation assistance. **Annex 1 contains a detailed list of needs.**

Priority 2: EMS and Advanced Medical Posts (AMP) in East Jerusalem

As the number of injured cases has significantly increased, and as the overall situation deteriorates further, it is expected that the need for emergency medical services will continue to exert pressure on the teams and the supplies in East Jerusalem. Medical consumables, medicines, PPE, and support for EMS stations and teams, as well as hospitals, will require to be scaled up.

Such considerations will include the replacement of the old and out of service ambulances to reduce the gap in the fleet. Purchasing additional ambulances would enable PRCS to further build-up the response capacities of the EMS stations and substations in East Jerusalem. Additionally, due to the narrow streets of Jerusalem's old city, at least two mini ambulances (tractor and motorcycle) are necessary. **Annex 2 contains a detailed list of needs.**

Priority 3: Response readiness across the West Bank

The confrontations and clashes across West Bank cities and towns are intensifying, and the number of people injured is increasing, while witnessing more serious injuries.

In this context, there is a need to increase the EMS centers' capacities and Advanced Medical Posts including the provision of disposables, medical supplies and medication.



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5. Suggested response scenarios and response plans

Possible scenarios for the development of the crisis:

Scenario	Consequences	Potential Response
1. Continued escalation of attacks and fighting across Gaza; as well as continued tension and confrontations in East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Israeli air, land and sea attacks on Gaza will have further dire humanitarian consequences on the civilian population of Gaza. More families displaced as more areas are bombed and buildings destroyed. Demand for shelter and humanitarian support for the displaced will overwhelm the existing capacities. As with previous crises, humanitarian and health facilities may suffer serious damage, thus affecting their capacities to respond and provide assistance. More pressure on the EMS and health facilities across Gaza, including those of PRCS. The Covid-19 pandemic and increased cases as people bundle together in shelters and extended family homes, will further complicate the situation, and strain the health system. The confrontations in East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank, may lead to a prolonged Intifada type confrontation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRCS to stay on high alert across the whole country, and increase level of mobilization of EMS teams, centers, staff, and volunteers. PRCS to utilize all facilities and capacities in the response to the increasing needs, including those of PHCs and hospitals. Scale up readiness and capacities to respond as needed including, warehouse capacities, medical supplies, medicines, ambulances, and teams. Increase level of coordination with national and local authorities including the MoH, Civil Defense, Military Medical Services, and municipalities.
2. An all-out war on Gaza like previous scenarios. In this case, confrontations across Palestine will continue and will escalate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AS above with greater number of injuries, displacements, and shortages of overall supplies in Gaza. Health system in Gaza overwhelmed and unable to cope with needs. Greater restrictions on movement across East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank, and greater difficulty for PRCS EMS teams and more restrictions on access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AS above with greater capacity needed for a greater time frame. More EMS units deployed together with greater utilization of AMP with full capacity to mitigate pressure on hospitals. Utilize the field hospital previously set in Al-Bireh for COVID-19 patients. Greater and more effective



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access denied by the Israeli occupation forces including on the entry of essential medical supplies to Gaza. 	coordination will be required with ICRC and other International Organizations including the UN to protect humanitarian space and secure humanitarian access.
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6. Coordination

PRCS has a country-wide presence through branches and volunteers' networks and as an auxiliary to the public authorities is well positioned to coordinate with national and local authorities at various levels. Through the given mandate, PRCS is also represented in various government-level coordination mechanisms and bodies, including at local level. Furthermore, the partnership and collaboration with MoH is a long-standing partnership that gives PRCS the mandate to support the health system in emergencies, through its EMS centers and teams.

At the level of Movement partners and international organizations present in Palestine, PRCS works with IFRC and ICRC to coordinate support from Movement partners including the facilitation of entry of essential supplies and equipment, safe access and overall coordination of information sharing and humanitarian diplomacy. PRCS together with IFRC and ICRC continue to participate in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings and other UN and donor coordination platforms.

Furthermore, PRCS has well established partnerships at the country level with UN agencies, donor missions and international organizations which are based on the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

Information sharing and regular updates and coordination meetings will be organized as needed, with priority given to Movement partners. Presently 12 Partner National Societies are cooperating with and supporting the PRCS in its ongoing programs (Canadian RC, Danish RC, German RC, Italian RC, Icelandic RC, Japanese RC, Kuwait RC, Netherlands RC, Qatar RC, Spanish RC, Swedish RC, and Turkish RC). PRCS has also established coordination mechanisms among headquarters and branches for needs assessment and response.

7. Quality and accountability

PRCS will adhere to the internationally accepted standards to ensure a sound financial management of the resources, which will facilitate accountability and transparency, and in the procurement procedures as well as based on the IFRC's Accountability and Community Engagement framework.

PMER will be crucial to delivering the planned operation to ensure evidence-based reporting, upholding accountability, and compliance with the established standards. Regarding monitoring, PRCS tracks the effects and impact of response actions, tracks the progress of activities, and delivers outputs. PRCS is committed to providing monthly update and operation updates to specific partners with quality reporting requirements.



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8. Operational Support

Human resources

The PRCS will work through its staff at headquarters and at branches in Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the West Bank as well as its centers and sub centers. The youth and volunteers are also deployed according to the needs with the potential to engage around 2000 volunteers.

The disaster management department supported by the EMS department and the youth and volunteers will lead the response to the ongoing crisis. Support from the other departments and their committees will be based on evolving needs. Psychosocial support will also be integrated in the response and initial recovery plans.

Logistics and supply chain

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including procurement, clearance, storage and forwarding to distributions sites in accordance with international logistics standards, processes and procedures ensuring full audit trail requirement, transparency in the procurement of goods and services. The central and regional warehouses with the fleet management are on duty throughout the crisis, to support with supplies and with transportation of volunteers and staff. All procured items will be stored in existing National Society warehouses to ensure adequate response, close to critical distribution points. Support from Movement partners, including ICRC and IFRC will be called upon when needed.

The acquisition of the items will be done according to the National Society procedures, whereby PRCS will follow its procurement policy and guidelines (**annex 3**), PRCS has emergency procurement procedures as well as standby agreement with suppliers qualified through stringent selection procedures for some regular supplies that have been already approved by the management, also respecting the national and international certification and quality control procedures.

Items for procurement will either be sourced locally where available or internationally and imported, contingent upon the procedures for coordination as well as existing taxation and importation regulations.

The distribution of the various materials to the distribution points will be done with National Society vehicles, unless a support is needed from ICRC. Considering nature and size of response, and current condition and exposure to damage of EMS fleet, it is necessary to increase capacity of the National Society EMS fleet in order to provide adequate response. The purchase of fuel for daily activities, transport and distribution of humanitarian assistance is also included in the Appeal's budget.

IFRC MENA Supply Chain Management Unit will provide technical validation of procurement process according to the established rules and regulations, upon request from National Society.

Communications

Information on the operation will be disseminated through a variety of channels i.e. PRCS Operational Update, IFRC Go Platform, PRCS website, social media etc. In coordination with the Movement partners to highlight the response to the humanitarian needs and the evolving and emerging humanitarian concerns. Upon request, surge support can be provided by Movement Partners.



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IFRC will support PRCS in its public communications efforts to shed light on the plight of civilians and the amazing work of volunteers and staff during this emergency.

Security

The security situation remains increasingly volatile. Movement partners in country are supported by ICRC regarding the safety and security conditions.

Further access restrictions, in addition to the existing ones, are already in place at the major crossing point in all operational areas.

Information and Technology

Upon a request from PRCS and as deemed necessary, support for IM and technology will be requested from the movement partners.

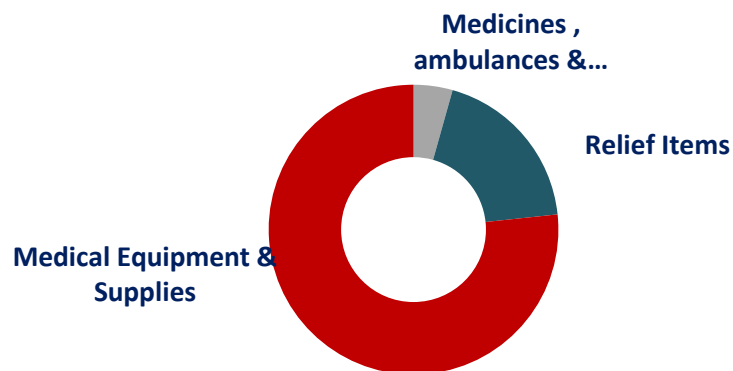
Administration and Finance

The PRCS will be responsible for managing the funds in accordance with standard policies, procedures, guidelines, and best practices, including the preparation, revision, validation, and monitoring of budgets, bank transfers, and technical justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices, and the procurement and distribution of supplies and needs. The partners supporting this initiative will be provided with regular updates as well as reports on the agreed schedules, and fully committed to comply with back-donor requirements for quality controls.

9. Detailed Funding Requirements



**18,596,142 Total
Funding
Requirements**





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Project Title: PRCs appeal for escalation of hostilities and unrest situation in oPt
Period: 11 May 2021- 31 December 2021
Version: PRCSAppeal-01
Updated (dd/mm/yyyy): 20-May-21

B.L	Item Unit price/\$ # of unit Total	Unit Price \$ By Location			Total Budget USDollar
		East Jerusalem	WB	Gaza	
1	Ambulances 7 Ambulance * 100.000 \$	700,000			700,000
2	20 ambulances *92,000 *10		920,000	920,000	1,840,000
3	Mini Ambulances (Tuk-tuks) to access the old city 2*25.000	60,300			60,300
4	Motorcycle 1	17,000			17,000
5	Running costs (including maintenace & fuel for ambulances)	50,000	50,000	500,000	600,000
6	Medical Equipment	200,000	30,000	6,190,866	6,420,866
7	Medicines & supplies	150,000	20,000	2,722,658	2,892,658
8	Communication (phone cards, lines)	50,000	50,000	20,000	120,000
9	Visibility - Uniforms and Vests	35,000	10,000	15,000	60,000
10	Allowances for volunteers for long hours	20,000	30,000	220,000	270,000
11	Relief Items		833,282	2,400,927	3,234,209
12	Food Items		174,847	376,000	550,847
13	Assistive Devices & supplies for PWD		110,000	110,000	220,000
14	Logistics			375,000	375,000
	Direct Cost	1,282,300	2,228,129	13,850,451	17,360,880
15	Audit Cost	4,000	4,000	12,000	20,000
16	Admin cost 7%	89,761	155,969	969,532	1,215,262
	Grand Total	1,376,061	2,388,098	14,831,983	18,596,142



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10. For further information and details, please contact

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