



JOINT STATEMENT

by

The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (the ICRC)

and

**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
(the IFRC)**

on

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the escalation of hostilities on Gaza Strip on 7 October 2023.

Date 11.10.2023

BACKGROUND & NEEDS

The PRCS, the ICRC and the IFRC are extremely concerned about the humanitarian consequences of the escalation of hostilities on Gaza Strip on 7 October 2023, which have resulted in the immense suffering of civilians. This crisis compounds the sixteen years of closure and restrictions on the movement of people and goods and which have negatively impacted the provision of essential services, the economy and life of residents. Medical facilities are under immense pressure, with some struggling to provide care to the injured due to shortages of medical supplies and energy. PRCS emergency medical teams have been injured and killed whilst assisting people, and ambulances and PRCS facilities have been damaged. In the West Bank, restrictions hinder the efficient response of the PRCS emergency medical services. The humanitarian needs are immense and growing.

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE BY THE MOVEMENT

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement remains committed to addressing the growing humanitarian needs, bringing lifesaving assistance and protection to the most vulnerable. Often at great personal risk, the PRCS Emergency Medical Services and hospitals on the ground, every day, have been responding to the emerging situation in Gaza in particular and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem in general.

The PRCS launched a Preliminary Emergency Appeal on 10 October and are requesting ambulances, fuel, medicines, and non-food items to scale up their response. The ICRC and IFRC will mobilize international resources for this humanitarian response in support of PRCS and in accordance with their standard resource mobilization tools and established Movement policies. The IFRC will also make available necessary technical and surge support to PRCS if needed.

The ICRC has called on all parties involved to uphold and respect their legal obligations under international humanitarian law, particularly those related to the protection of civilians and healthcare workers at all times. PRCS must be able to undertake its vital life-saving work unimpeded and without threat of injury or violence to its staff and volunteers. Building on long term emergency response collaboration with PRCS, ICRC is stepping up its operational support. Likewise, the ICRC continues to support the resilience of essential service providers of energy, water, sanitation and health-care services. The IFRC is also expanding its support to PRCS through capacity strengthening and NSD, coordinating with its Members for complementary support.

MOVEMENT COORDINATION

The collective response of the Movement to the people affected by the escalation of hostilities on 7 October will build on pre-existing Movement coordination mechanisms. These will be scaled up and adapted to address and respond to the changing evolving context and rapidly increasing humanitarian needs.

On 7 October, PRCS convened a Mini-Summit with the ICRC and the IFRC to define the parameters for a coordinated Movement response. The partners committed to collaborate, leveraging each other's strengths and capabilities to deliver the Movement's optimal collective humanitarian response to the growing numbers of people gravely affected in this crisis which has compounded existing vulnerabilities. Movement coordination platforms will be further developed at strategic, operational, and technical levels.

In accordance with the Movement Coordination for Collective Impact Agreement (MCCIA, Seville Agreement 2.0), PRCS has assumed the role of Convener, with ICRC being the Co-convener. In complementarity, IFRC will provide membership coordination at the regional and global level to ensure a unified Movement and IFRC network approach.

Strategic level exchanges and meetings, will continue to ensure timely and relevant strategic guidance to operations.

WAY FORWARD

Due to ongoing hostilities, and the logistical challenges associated with transporting goods, particularly into Gaza, Partner National Societies and donors are kindly requested to seek PRCS's guidance on its initial needs before responding with in-kind donations. Neither the PRCS, ICRC nor IFRC will be able to accept un-solicited, uncoordinated, and unregulated goods and donations.

PRCS, IFRC and ICRC, ask donors and partners to focus on the priority needs and to consider contributing cash or cash-for-kind support as a priority seeking the most appropriate and dignified form of assistance.

Leveraging their respective roles, capabilities and networks, Movement partners will work together to ensure duty of care of staff and volunteers, to reinforce business continuity of the PRCS, while expanding operational support to respond to the grave humanitarian consequences.

As representatives of the Movement, we commit to making all efforts to significantly scale up the humanitarian response, as needed, and in a coordinated manner.

We thank all partners for their support.

In solidarity,

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