



JOINT STATEMENT

by

The Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS)

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

and

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

on

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

Date 04.11.2023

Background

Since 7th October 2023 an escalation of hostilities has occurred across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The number of displaced people, injuries and fatalities continue to rise as the escalation intensifies. The humanitarian needs are immense, and conditions are expected to deteriorate with the increasing numbers of casualties, damaged vital infrastructure, restricted access, and anticipated mass internal displacement with limited or no safe evacuation passages or humanitarian corridors.

As of 1st of November, the number of people killed in Gaza has exceeded 8,525 and more than 21,543 people have been injured. The number of internally displaced people is now estimated at more than 1.4 million. More than 15 percent of the displaced are estimated to have disabilities, yet most shelters are not adequately equipped for their needs.

The 2.2 million residents of Gaza are not able to leave Gaza, and have been cut off water, electricity, fuel, medical supplies, and food. Since 21st October, only a small amount of humanitarian aid has been allowed to enter Gaza. Until 1st of November only 213 truckloads had entered Gaza, compared to a daily average of 500 truckloads prior to the hostilities.

We, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, are extremely concerned about the severe humanitarian impact of the war.

Movement coordination - Working Together as one Movement

As Convener, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society held a Mini-Summit on 2nd November 2023 to confirm the organization of the Movement's collective response, based on respective mandates and added value in the context. Further leadership level coordination meetings are foreseen. ERCS is supported by IFRC as the co-convener as per the Movement Coordination for Collective Impact Agreement

(Seville Agreement 2.0). ICRC assumes its complementary role with the specific lead in protection and neutral intermediary role.

The meeting agreed that ERCS will be supported by the IFRC network and by ICRC to scale up operations and the collective impact. Movement partners will maintain strong coordination and complimentary in supporting ERCS and ensure a coherent approach National Society Development, strengthening the capacities of the local branches and increasing the Movement's efforts to reinforce the auxiliary role of the ERCS to the public authorities in the humanitarian field.

Movement response - Committed to Scaling up

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 in Gaza through its operations in Egypt.

The Movement's collective response to the crisis in Egypt is framed by the Operational Response Plan of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS) to which all Movement components contribute. While the ERCS Operational Response Plan remains the primary operational approach, the ICRC may also leverage Egypt as a platform for the implementation or support of complementary humanitarian interventions, due to its specific role on protection and as a neutral intermediary accepted by all parties to the conflict in Israel and the Occupied Palestine territories (ILOT).

The ERCS immediately mobilized staff and volunteers in the primary logistics hubs of Cairo, Al Arish and Ismailia. ERCS is the designated lead coordinator, mandated by the Egyptian authorities, and recipient of international aid for Gaza in Egypt. The distribution and dissemination of aid into Gaza is done through the daily coordination between the Coordination Cell in Gaza, comprised of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) - under which convener role the ICRC co-convenes in ILOT - and UNWRA. This puts the ERCS in a unique position and will allow the Movement to scale up the humanitarian interventions, which will complement the Government's and other humanitarian actors' relief and resiliency-building efforts.

The ICRC and IFRC have mobilized resources and re-allocated in-country resources to support response of ERCS. The Movement partners continue to mobilize international resources for this humanitarian response in support of ERCS in accordance with their standard resource mobilization tools and established Movement policies.

The IFRC has launched an appeal of CHF 30 M for the surrounding countries and has mobilized a Logistics ERU in support of the logistic efforts of ERCS. The IFRC continues to make available necessary technical and surge support to ERCS and is expanding its support to ERCS through capacity strengthening and National Society Development as well as coordinating with its membership for complementary support.

ICRC stepped up its operational capacity and mobilized financial resources (500,000 CHF) to ensure the scale-up of the ongoing support to ERCS' emergency response and provision of PFL (Protection of Family Links) activities in emergency, focusing both on Cairo and North Sinai. The ICRC mobilized technical and HR capacity (Rapid Deployment) to support the logistics capacity of the ERCS, in coordination with the IFRC and until the completion of the IFRC's surge capacity mentioned above. The ICRC will continue to offer its operational, conflict-related added value and expertise on areas requested by the ERCS, in particular on supporting ERCS' ERT's response, protection, communication (including on MDH - Misinformation Disinformation and Hate speech), or IHL.

Our commitment

In responding to this crisis, both international components of the Movement, ICRC and IFRC, are present in Egypt. The Movement's interventions are in accordance with its Fundamental Principles, its Statutes, and applicable laws, and are coordinated with those of local authorities and international humanitarian organisations. In the interests of helping all people in need, the Movement partners are committed to strong collaboration and coordination, and to complementing each other's activities.

We, the Movement partners will make all efforts to significantly scale up the humanitarian impact reached through the Egyptian Red Crescent Society and to ensure solid accountability towards the affected people. We commit to ensuring public communication and related humanitarian diplomacy efforts including advocacy for humanitarian needs both in local and international forums are delivered through a cohesive and coordinated approach.

As the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, we take this opportunity to express our sincere concern for, and solidarity with the affected population.

We thank all partners for their support.

Dr Ramy ElNazer
President
ERCS

Mads Brinch Hansen
Senior Emergency Team Leader
IFRC

Alfonso Verdu Perez
Head of Delegation
ICRC