

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

ALBANIA: FLOODS

DREF operation n° MDRAL002
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000266-ALB
11 January, 2010

The International Federation's 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 response to emergencies. 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 302,500 (USD 295,278 or EUR 204,990) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,200 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Due to the rainfall in recent days, accompanied with the melting of snow in the northern area of Albania, the Drini river flows have been increasing, which has consequently increased the water levels in three hydroelectric power lakes. The authorities were obliged to release water from the lakes, which, together with heavy rainfalls, caused flooding in the prefectures of Shkodra and Lezha affecting more than 2,200 families. Some 3,572 persons have been evacuated.



Flooded areas in the north-western part of Albania. Photos: Albania Red Cross

To address the situation, the Red Cross Society of Albania with support from the International Federation will assist 2,200 families with basic food and non-food items.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 11 April, 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 11 July, 2010).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Shkodra prefecture is located in the north-western part of Albania, 120 km far from the capital of Tirana. It is situated beneath three high hydroelectric power dikes which present a great risk for the area. Due to the rainfall of recent days, accompanied with the melting of snow in the northern area of Albania, the Drini river flows have been increasing. Consequently the levels of water in the three hydroelectricity power lakes of Fierza, Koman and Vau i Dejes which are built on this river have been increasing.

As a result of this situation, even though the maximum of water is used to produce electricity in order to keep the level of water under control in the lakes, the relevant authorities were obliged to open the emergency doors to release water from the lakes.

The maximum capacity water can flow at is 800m³/sec, but after opening the dike gates the water flow parameters grew to 2,450 m³/sec. This water flow together with heavy rainfalls caused flooding on the flat area of Shkodra prefecture.

Albanian authorities declared a natural disaster on 5 January in Shkodra and Lezha prefectures, where raging floodwaters forced the evacuation of thousands of people.

Prime Minister Sali Berisha has warned that the region is on the verge of a catastrophe. According to forecasters, heavy rainfalls will continue in the coming days.

In accordance with the Emergency Situation Law, an emergency management group was set up in Shkodra and Lezha prefectures with the task of managing the situation. The Shkodra and Lezha Red Cross branches are represented in this emergency management group.

Despite appeals by the authorities that called on women, children and older people to leave their homes to avoid the worst, a large majority of the inhabitants of the villages have refused to leave their homes and cattle, fearing that they would lose them in the floods.

The situation in Shkodra district is becoming increasingly critical. The Buna river is already swollen and the water is poured into within the city of Shkodra.

The water level on the main road entering to Shkodra, close to Bërdicës has reached one metre, while in the village of Bërdicës it has reached two metres. Sub-Shkodra area remains in a critical situation. The water isolates Shkodra city blocking the national road axis and cuts communication with the town. Shkodra town can still be accessed by using the old road that goes through the Vau-Dejes hills. The road towards Montenegro is still open and accessible for the vehicles.

Fortunately there was no overnight rain precipitation while the army and police forces continued the evacuation of residents from flooded areas by boat, boats and military vehicles. Still there are some families that refuse to leave their houses and insist to stay in their homes to maintain their livelihood.

According to the media there is one person missing, a 23 year-old person who was evacuating his domestic animals in the moment of his disappearing.

The latest information received by the Emergency Commission at Shkodra prefecture on 8 January, 2010 reports an increase in the number of people evacuated to 3,572 persons, 98 per cent of whom are accommodated with their relatives.

Furthermore, 11 Roma families are accommodated in a military building in the village of Renc, while 83 women and children are accommodated on the sites of a local religious NGO. In Shkodra town 12 families are accommodated in a student dormitory.

The below table shows the preliminary data on the flooded area and the people evacuated:

LOCAL UNIT	FLOODED LAND	EVACUATED PEOPLE	FLOODED HOUSES
Municipality Shkodër	650 ha	83	320
Commune Dajc	1,000 ha	2,165	1,187
Commune Ana Malit	1,170 ha	200	190

Commune Berdice	1,700 ha	350	165
Commune Guri Zi	250 ha	689	200
Commune Bushat	1,300 ha	50	80
Commune Velipojë	2,000 ha	25	50
Commune Qendër	500 ha	10	8
Total	9,150 ha	3,572	2,200

According to the Situation Report no. 2 from UNOCHA, the government of Albania stated that another 16,000-20,000 persons may still need to be evacuated as more bad weather is expected in the days ahead.

Preliminary assessments conducted by Albania Red Cross staff revealed the following damages to the households:

- houses
- home equipment and furniture
- winter reserves of corns and vegetables
- livestock and livestock food
- corn plants

Coordination and partnerships

The Albania Red Cross has been closely coordinating with the authorities at both local and national level. The secretary of Shkodra branch has been participating in the meeting of the emergency management group in this prefecture.

In response to the situation, the Red Cross Societies of Macedonia and Montenegro and the Red Cross of Kosova have offered support.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The local Red Cross branch in Shkodra has been intensively monitoring the development of the situation right from the beginning. The Red Cross has been in close contact with the director of Civil Emergency, the prefect of Shkodra and with the state and local authorities.

A preliminary assessment has been conducted to assess the damage done to houses, food reserves, livestock and to determine the needs of the affected population. The disaster management coordinator from the headquarters has advised and assisted the Shkodra branch staff involved in the response. Around 30 trained volunteers are involved in the activities.

So far the Red Cross volunteers were involved in supporting the evacuation by raising awareness, in collecting information, assisting 11 Roma families and 83 women and children, conducting preliminary assessment and monitoring the situation.

The Shkodra branch has purchased locally daily fresh food for 11 Roma families accommodated in a communal building in the village of Renc. Support will continue for these families in the coming days.

The Albania Red Cross logistics has prepared the stock with non-food items ready to deliver these items to the affected area. So far 200 hygiene kits were distributed to 83 women and children who are accommodated on the sites of a local religious NGO and 12 other families accommodated in a student dormitory.

The needs

Based on the information collected from field, meeting with the affected people and in coordination with relevant authorities at local and national level there is significant need for food and non-food items for the people accommodated at host families.

The estimated number of people in need of support in the most affected areas is about 2,200 families or 8,800 persons.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Objective: 2,200 families in the most affected villages in Shkodra prefecture are provided with humanitarian assistance in the form of basic food and non-food items.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the final lists of beneficiaries together with the local management commission and local authorities • Procure and deliver relief supplies to the beneficiaries • Organize seven awareness raising activities with the communities to discuss individual and community hygiene • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and report on the relief distributions • As part of the monitoring and evaluation activities, conduct a survey among people reached to find out what they felt about the goods and services they received and whether their needs were met

The families to be assisted are selected according to the following criteria:

- Evacuated families accommodated with their relatives
- Roma families affected by the floods

The below items will be distributed to each families:

Food parcel (for one month) item	Amount	Non-food item	Amount
White flour	25kg	Blanket	4
Rice	5kg	Hygiene kit	1
Vegetbale oil	5litres	Washing powder	2kg
Sugar	5kg	Soap	8 pcs
White beans	5kg	Mattress	1

The non-food items will be distributed from the disaster preparedness stock and it will be replenished later on, while the food items will be purchased from the supplier with whom Albania Red Cross has signed contracts.

The International Federation will consider the deployment of one or two regional disaster response team members to support the Albania Red Cross in responding to the current situation.

DREF budget

RELIEF NEEDS

Clothing & Textiles	135,400
Food	81,450
Teaching Materials	4,000
Other Supplies & Services	34,905

Total Relief Needs 255,755

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Distribution & Monitoring	3,500
Transport & Vehicles Costs	4,000

PERSONNEL

Regionally Deployed Staff	6,000
National Society Staff	6,483

GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	2,000
Information & Public Relations	2,300
Communication Costs	1,000
Other General Expenses	3,000

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	18,462
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Total Operational Needs	46,745
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Total Requested Allocation	302,500
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How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

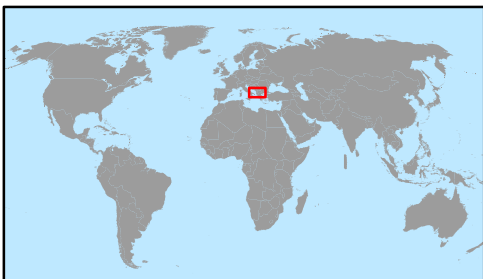
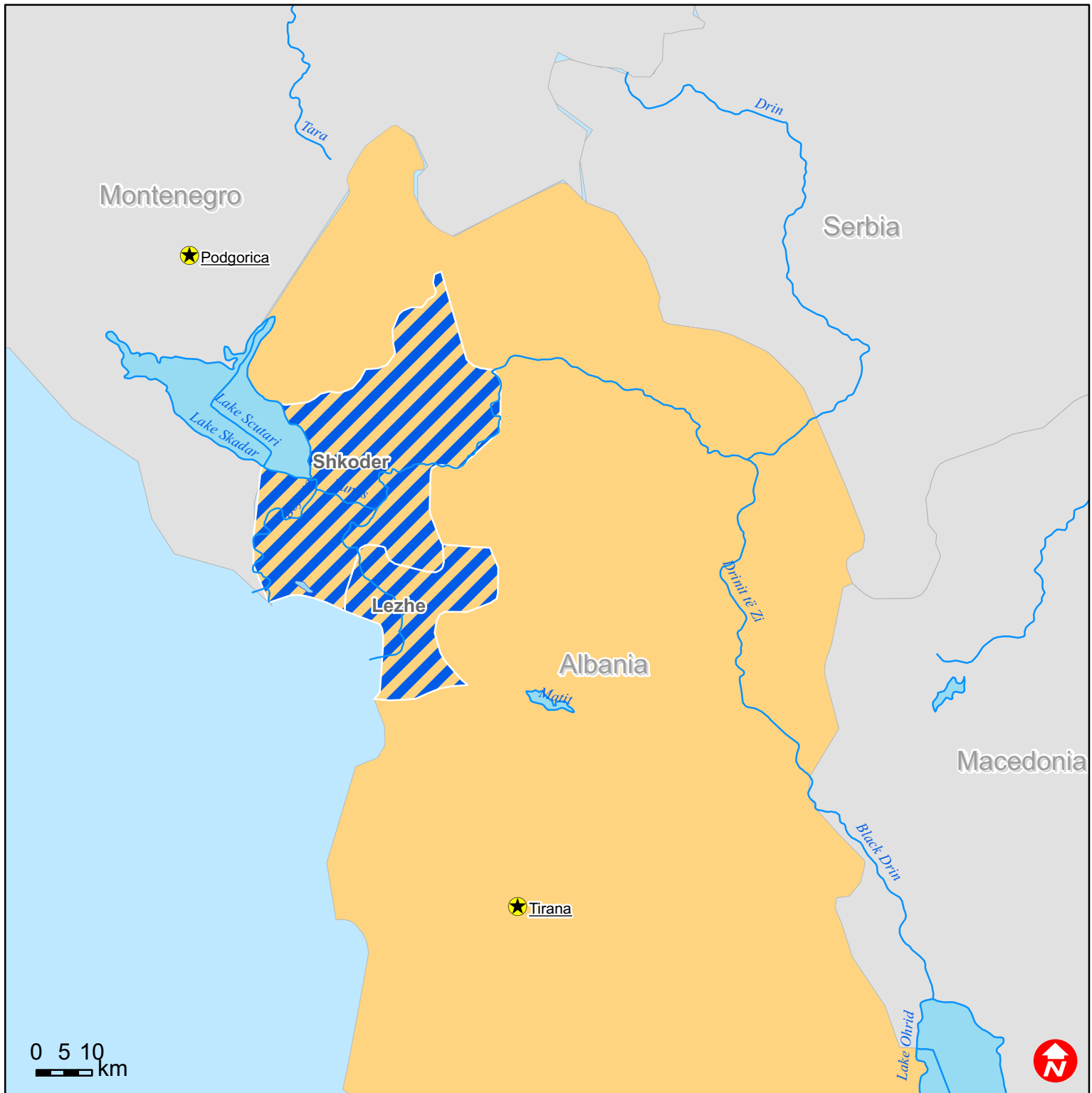
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



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 Affected prefectures