

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

ALBANIA: SHKODRA FLOODS

DREF operation n° MDRAL003
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000248-ALB
6 June, 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 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.

Summary: CHF 204,031 (USD 208,860 or EUR 156,274) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 06 December, 2010 to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,000 families in temporary accommodation with fresh food and in their flooded houses basic food and non-food items.

For the second time in 2010 Albanian Red Cross with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other Movement partners as well as international and local donors acted to respond to floods. This time around the operation addressed the needs of 4,100 families affected in Shkodra Prefecture and 373 families in other districts as well. The families were provided with basic food and non-food relief items including food, blankets, hygiene kits and kitchen sets. The Roma people in temporary accommodation received fresh food on a daily basis for about one month.



Relief distribution in Obot, Dajç Commune
Photo: Albanian Red Cross CCRossCross

Awareness-raising activities were conducted to inform the communities about the risks threatening them, health and hygiene issues, including water contamination.

All activities were implemented over 3 months and were possible thanks to the released funds and donations from various local and international actors. The Netherlands Red Cross contributed CHF 38,941, the Canadian Government contributed CHF 28,413 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Continuous heavy rains during November and December, 2010 had increased the water levels of Buna, Kiri, Prroi Thate and Drini rivers as well the water level of Shkodra Lake. Furthermore, the water level in three artificial lakes (Fierza, Koman and Vau i Dejes) on Drini River were also risen. This made the authorities to open the emergency dam gates and release the water to avoid further damages. The water flow released

was approximately 3,500 cubic metres per second, while the operative capacity of the dam is 800 cubic metres per second.

The consequences of releasing this quantity of water into the Shkodra Lake caused floods in a large area of Shkodra town and its surroundings. The Dajc, Oboti, Darragjati, Berdice, Ana Malit, Velipojë, Bushat, Gur i Zi Communes were totally surrounded by water. Water had reached 30% of Shkodra town, flooding the areas of Livadhe, Ajasem, Xhabije and Bahcallek and inundating houses, business establishments and gas stations. The main road to Shkodra town was flooded as well as Berdicës Arch, part of Shkodra-Tirana axis. The secondary road, up in the hills was used to reach Shkodra town.

The increasing water level was threatening to break the Torrovice dam which is a key barrier protecting Lezha Prefecture and the neighbouring communes. Also, due to the heavy rains floods and lands slides occurred in other districts such as: Fushe-Kruje, Lezhe, Librazhd, Berat, Burrel, Diber, Gramsh, Puke, Tirana. This area had already suffered heavy floods in January 2010.

The Albanian Government declared state of emergency due to the natural disaster and the Prime Minister called for rapid evacuation of the affected population. The army and police forces were coordinating the evacuation of residents from the flooded areas by boats and military vehicles. The evacuated families were accommodated in 3 dormitory schools and a military building. The hotels in Shkodra and Velipoja accommodated more evacuated people and the army has set up a tents camp as well. In the beginning, because of difficult access to the area, the families were assisted with food and water by the government.

The final data received from the government's Emergency Commission on the flooded area and the people evacuated is as follows:

- 2,000 evacuated people accommodate in the collective centers.
- 12,500 evacuated people accommodated with their relatives;
- 15,000 acres of land flooded,
- 4,800 houses surrounded by water, most of them already flooded
- 16,500 animals evacuated
- 373 other affected families by floods or lands slide in other districts.

Assessments conducted by Albania Red Cross staff revealed the following categories of damage to the households:

- Houses themselves
- home equipment and furniture
- winter reserves of corn and vegetables
- livestock and livestock food
- corn plants

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The local Red Cross branch in Shkodra and headquarters staff have been actively monitoring the development of the situation right from the beginning. Around 50 trained volunteers were mobilized for response activities. The Red Cross maintained close contact with the director of Civil Emergency, the prefect of Shkodra and with the state and local authorities.

The Initial Red Cross activities included:

- Identification of places where people have been evacuated
- Identification of the number of affected people and assess their living conditions – compiling the most vulnerable beneficiary lists
- Assess the most urgent needs to be addressed by the Red Cross.
- Since December 4th emergency distribution of food ready to eat and non-food relief items to the Roma people in collective centres.
- Participating in regular meetings with Disaster Management Commission and local authorities in Shkodra Prefecture.
- Evaluation of activities to ensure adequate reporting
- An assessment of the damage caused to houses, food reserves, and livestock as well as to determine the needs of the affected population.

The staff and volunteers of Red Cross were also involved in collecting the information and urgent distribution of blankets and hygienic parcels for 110 families affected by the flood in Obot and Ana Malit. The distribution took place on 29 November 2010 in coordination with local authorities in Shkodra Prefecture.

The Albanian Red Cross prepared the stock with non-food items ready to be delivered to the affected area. The stock contained the following items: 12,000 Blankets, 2,000 Hygiene kits, 300 Mattresses, 220 Tents, and 20 tons of wheat. All these items, except the tents, were distributed in Shkodra and other areas affected by floods.

In coordination with the Emergency Management Commission the Shkodra Branch Red Cross was involved right from the beginning in assisting 138 Roma families with fresh food and water purchased locally daily. In addition, for this community and 300 other families who were accommodated in a student dormitory, 500 blankets and 200 hygienic kits were distributed. The Roma people settlements were in the suburb of Shkodra town which were totally flooded. The Local Government evacuated them to the temporary accommodation placed to an army building in Rrenc.

Five other local Red Cross branches organized local fund-raising campaigns to assist the people in need in Shkodra. They collected 2 tons of food items, 65 boxes with clothes and approximately 3,500 CHF in cash. The collected food items and clothes were delivered to the Shkodra branch for further distribution.

In response to the situation, several partners within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as well as external actors sent relief assistance or offered support as follow:

Funds	In-kind
USAID USD 50,000	The Turkish Red Crescent 160 tents, 400 food parcels and 13 large medical kits.
The Soros foundation in Albania USD 100,000	The Spanish Red Cross 10 000 blankets, 3000 hygienic kits and 3000 kitchen sets
The Vodafone Foundation Albania USD 16,000	The Church of Jesus Christ of latter-Day Saints: 12.5 Mt white flour, 2.5 Mt rice, 2.5 Mt sugar, 2.5 Mt beans and 2500 lit oil.
The Red Crescent of United Emirates Arabe USD 15 000	
The Italian Red Cross EURO 30 000	
The Chinese Embassy in Tirana USD 20,000	

In cooperation and coordination with the Emergency Management Commission set up in Shkodra town the following areas of activities were defined for Albanian Red Cross action:

1. Phase 1: Dajç, Ana Malit Communes and Ajasem, Bahcallek, Shirok and Zogaj neighbourhoods of Shkodra town. Upon the request of the Prefect of Shkodra, after the verification carried out by ARC staff, Bushat Commune was included with assistance provided for 100 families.
2. Phase 2: Guri i Zi, Bushat, Dajç Communes and Xhabije, Salo Halili neighbourhoods of Shkodra town as well as Roma People in Rrenc.

Albanian Red Cross verified beneficiary lists provided by the community leaders and local authorities through its own assessment.

The priority needs were as follows:

- Evacuation of the families
- Food (ready to eat meals and basic food parcels for those accommodated with their relatives)
- Safe drinking water
- The awareness of the risk of health and water borne diseases.

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 2,000 families in the most affected villages in Shkodra prefecture are provided with humanitarian assistance in the form of food ready to eat, basic food, and non-food items and drinking water

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

Output: Members of 2,000 families from the most affected areas have their nutritional and hygiene needs met through provision of food, non-food items and safe drinking water

Activities:

- Preparation of final lists of beneficiaries together with the local management commission and local authorities
- Procurement and delivery of relief supplies to the beneficiaries
- Organizing six awareness raising activities with the communities to discuss individual and community hygiene
- Monitoring and evaluation of the relief activities and reporting on the relief distributions

Impact:

The Albanian Red Cross President and Secretary General visited the flooded area and met the vice/Prime Minister as Head of inter-ministerial Commission and Prefect of Shkodra as Head of Emergency Management Commission, informed them about the intervention of the National Society to assist the affected families in Shkodra Prefecture.

The initial objective was to support 2,000 affected families with humanitarian assistance. Due to the received support from the Federation and Red Cross/ Red Crescent partners as well as other local and international donors, the Red Cross Society of Albania has addressed the needs of 4,473 affected families, through distribution of food and non-food relief items.

The relief operation was carried out in cooperation with Shkodra Prefecture and heads of the affected Communes. After receiving the lists of needs from the authorities, the Red Cross Branch in Shkodra verified these needs through its own assessment and prepared the final list of beneficiaries.

The beneficiary families were selected according to the following criteria:

- Evacuated families accommodated with their relatives
- Serious household damages including equipment and winter reserves of corn and vegetables
- Roma families affected by the floods
- Poor families affected by flood (surrounded by water).

The distribution was done in two phases:

- 29 November 2010 to 31 January 2011.
- 14 February 2011 to 20 March 2011.

The number of families and people assisted by the Albanian Red Cross and their place of residence for the two phases of distribution were:

Nr	Location	No. beneficiary families First Phase	No. beneficiary families Second Phase
1	Shkodra municipality		
	Ajazem	158	-
	Bahçallek	320	-
	Shiroke	182	-
	Salo Halili	-	420
	Xhabije	-	202
	Roma Families in Rrenc	138	138
2	Communes in Shkodra		
	Dajç	878	657
	Ana e malit	330	-
	Bushat	355	255
	Gur i Zi	328	328
3	TOTAL in Shkodra	2 100	2 000

4	Other Districts (Fushe-Kruje, Lezhe, Librazhd, Berat, Burrel, Diber, Gramsh, Puke, Tirana)	373	
5	TOTAL Families	2 473	2 000

In both phases of the distribution the items distributed to each family were:

- Food parcel (for one month): White flour 25kg, Rice 5kg, Vegetable oil 5 litres, Sugar 5kg, White beans 5kg, 5 litres of water.
- Food ready to eat, one meal/day for 1000 persons for 15 days (only for Roma People in collective centres)
- Non food items: Blanket 4 pieces, Hygiene kit: 1 kit.
- Additional items distributed for very poor affected families: Cooking set: 1 set, Mattresses: 1 piece.

The total number of distributed items for the 4,473 families and quantities covered by DREF:

Food items	Quantities distributed in total	Quantities items covered by DREF
White flour	111.8 Mt	66.7 Mt
Rice	22.4 Mt	13.3 Mt
Vegetable oil	22 365 Litre	13 300 litre
Sugar	22.4 Mt	13.3 Mt
White beans	22.4 Mt	13.3 Mt
Water	11 000 Litre	11 000 litre
Non food items		
Blankets	17 892 pcs	-
Hygiene kit	4. 818 kit	1000 kit
Cooking set	510 sets	-
Mattresses	157 pc	-

In addition, 5,106 ready to eat family meals (bread, cheese, butter, salami, water), were distributed to 138 Roma families, for a period between December 4, 2010 and January 10, 2011.

The distribution process in the field has been monitored, with representatives of donors to this relief operation being present at distribution points.

Besides relief distributions, awareness-raising activities were conducted in order to inform the communities about the flood risks and different health issues.

In the framework of the health project recently implemented by the Shkodra branch, six meetings were organised in the affected Communes. About 450 community members received the necessary information on individual and collective hygiene and in the following weeks respected all the prevention measures in the collective centres as well as their homes. Community members such as teachers and students discussed topics such as water contamination and disinfection of the affected areas. Three community actions were organized in Shkodra town and Dajç commune with the involvement of 50 volunteers. The actions included house cleaning, disinfection of trees and gathering of garbage with the aim of mobilizing community members to get involved.

When the water receded and affected people could return to their houses, they applied the practices taught through the Red Cross meetings to ensure their own health is preserved and the indoor and outdoor hygiene is restored fairly quickly.

The volunteers also distributed posters and leaflets promoting individual and community hygiene which were developed in the previous flood. Despite the high risk of potential epidemic of water borne diseases, no registered cases of infection occurred, thanks partly to the Red Cross work.

Evaluation

Through monitoring of the distribution process as well as through evaluation carried out by the Albanian Red Cross among local authorities and beneficiaries reached during the implementing of the operation, some important findings emerged:

1. In 2010, huge floods affected the second time the same area, Shkodra Prefecture, causing serious damages to the population. This proved that prevention and mitigation activities are needed to be addressed in order to reduce the vulnerability in the area.
2. The people in the flat Shkodra highlighted the importance of timely information on releasing water from dams during the emergency and the necessary measures to be taken into consideration before the flooding happens.
3. The Albania Red Cross established good cooperation with Emergency Management Commission and other Local Authorities during the operation.
4. The 50 volunteers of the Shkodra Red Cross Branch as well as the DP teams in Shkodra and other branches that have been previously trained in preparedness and disaster response, proved to be a helpful and valuable part of the operation.
5. Due to standard equal ration for each family the ARC packages were appreciated the most by the beneficiaries. The parcels of some other donors differed in weight and were sometimes reason for complaints.
6. The distribution process was carried out according to the previously established criteria and was very transparent to the beneficiaries and local authorities involved. The list of beneficiaries and the ration of items per family has been published in visible places near the distribution point.
7. Red Cross visibility was high in each stage of the operation: stamped emblems on food packages, volunteer uniforms, Red Cross trucks, boards etc.

Challenges:

One of the challenges during the operation was the limited access to the affected areas due to the high level of water. This created additional difficulties in damage and needs assessment, as well as related to psycho-social support activities for the most vulnerable families in panic.

Communications

The Communication coordinator of the Albanian Red Cross regularly prepared and sent to media the Press releases related to the implementation of the relief operation, following-up each actions. The Albanian Red Cross Web-site also published the updates related to the relief operation.

Meanwhile the President and the Secretary General of the Albanian Red Cross gave numerous interviews to the national and local television channels informing the public about each step of the operation as well as the conclusion of the emergency response in Shkodra.

How we work

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

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- **In Europe Zone Office:** Slobodanka Ćurić, Disaster Management Coordinator, Budapest, phone: +361 8884 510; email: slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org
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MDRAL003 - Albania - Floods

Appeal Launch Date: 06 dec 10

Appeal Timeframe: 06 dec 10 to 06 mar 11

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/12-2011/4
Budget Timeframe	2010/12-2011/3
Appeal	MDRAL003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	204,031					204,031
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	<i>204,031</i>					<i>204,031</i>
C4. Other Income	204,031					204,031
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	204,031					204,031
D. Total Funding = B + C	204,031					204,031
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	204,031					204,031
E. Expenditure	-204,031					-204,031
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		204,031					204,031	
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies	191,578	191,578					191,578	0
Total Contributions & Transfers	191,578	191,578					191,578	0
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Service Support	12,453	12,453					12,453	0
Total Indirect Costs	12,453	12,453					12,453	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	204,031	204,031					204,031	0
VARIANCE (C - D)		0					0	