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Information bulletin Macedonia: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Macedonian Red Cross, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required at this point, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time until needs assessment are finalised.

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



Flooded community in Kumanovo. 26th February 2013. Photo: Macedonian Red Cross

The heavy rainfalls that affected Macedonia during the period from 23rd to 26th February 2013 caused the overflow of rivers,

damaging and spilling several dams and leading to serious consequences in the infrastructure, some agricultural fields and the houses of the residents in a number of regions in the country.

At the moment, the most affected regions by the floods in Macedonia are: Kumanovo, Shtip, Sveti Nikole, Strumica, Valandovo, Ohrid, Probishtip and Kochani. The headquarters of Macedonian Red Cross (MRC) is in constant communication and coordination with the governmental institutions on both central and local levels. At the moment, MRC is gathering and analyzing data from the RC Branches, and governmental institutions, and it is planning for further actions.

The situation

In the last few days starting on 23rd February, heavy rainfalls caused numerous floods in some regions in Macedonia. According to the gathered data, the most affected regions are: Kumanovo, Shtip, Sveti Nikole, Strumica, Valandovo, Ohrid, Probishtip and Kochani.

In Kumanovo region, as a result of the heavy rains, the river Kojnarka overflowed its river bed in the communities Sredorek and Kumanovo. This resulted in the flooding of more than 50 houses, and the destruction of one pedestrian bridge. 50 families have been evacuated from the area, and the local self-government and Red Cross branch are undertaking action to provide shelter to the affected population. In Sveti Nikole, more than 200 households have been affected, out of which 50 are in critical situation.

In Shtip, ten houses have been flooded, located near the river Bregalnica in Novo Selo. The families were safely evacuated. In Valandovo region, the most affected village is Josifovo, where more than 100 families have been affected by the floods.

In the Ohrid region, the dam on Slatinsko Lake is seriously damaged with high possibility to crash. The locals from villages Slatino and Slatinski Ciflig have been evacuated together with their cattle and other animals. The governmental institutions are undertaking measures for controlled leakage of the water, in order to decrease the pressure on the damaged dams. In Probishtip region, the dam Pishica is also

seriously damaged and it is overflowing due to the high amount of water. The safety gates have been opened, but still there is a risk of too much pressure on the damaged dam. There are more than 500 families in this region, although some of them have already been evacuated.

In Kochani region, there are more than 100 houses flooded and a lot of agricultural lands. At the moment the assessment is put on hold due to the inaccessible area. According to the gathered data, in the affected regions there is serious damage to the infrastructure (ruined bridges, water infrastructure, damaged dams, damaged local and regional roads and no electricity). The weather forecast for the next few days is predicting additional heavy rains that may worsen the current situation.

Activities of the governmental institutions

Governmental institutions are activated in full capacity to cope with the situation, and to prevent more serious consequences, by using mechanization for the drainage of canals and riverbeds, diversion of rivers, pumping out the water from the affected houses. Also they are working on fixing the damaged infrastructure back to normal.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

MRC HQ is monitoring the situation and is in constant communication and coordination with the government institutions on both local and central levels. In the affected regions, the regional HQ's of the Centre for Crisis Management are fully operational. The Red Cross Local Branches in the affected areas (Kumanovo, Sveti Nikole, Shtip, Probishtip, Strumica, Ohrid, Valandovo and Kocani) are already conducting field and needs assessments jointly with the local governmental institutions. While MRC HQ is analysing the data, it is also forming teams that can assist the RC local branches in the further activities.

At the moment, members of National Emergency Response Units are preparing humanitarian aid to be distributed to 100 families. The humanitarian aid will be composed of food and hygiene parcels, mattresses, blankets and rubber boots. Distributions were realized in Kumanovo and Shtip during the night on 26th February 2013. The National Society is preparing a new shipment for the other regions as well.

Due to the high number of the affected people, MRC HQ is prioritizing the most affected and the most vulnerable families, since the stocks in reserve are minimal. According to the information received so far there are more than 300 families affected at the moment but this figure is expected to increase in the coming days. The governmental institutions together with the RC are looking for solutions to find shelters to accommodate the evacuated people. After their safe accommodation, Macedonian Red Cross will start the distribution of the relief items.

Contact information

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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.

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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.
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