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Information bulletin Serbia: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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28th February 2013

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Red Cross of Serbia has, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), 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 a needs assessment is finalised.

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



Flooded settlement in Serbia in February 2013. Photo: Red Cross of Serbia

The situation

After heavy rainfalls accompanied with hail and thunder, which on Monday, February 25th, late in the afternoon affected Bujanovac, Vranje, Trgovište and the wider environment, flash floods hit Bujanovac municipality (a part of city called New Settlement, and the villages Oslare, Levosoje and Rakovac), in Preševo (the village called Train Station) at night and on the next day, Tuesday, February 26th, while in Vranje and in Trgovište the heavy precipitation caused a sudden increase in water levels in the local rivers.

In Bujanovac, about 60 houses were flooded and about 100 people (more than twenty families) evacuated, who have been put up in homes of their friends or relatives. In Preševo about 50 homes were flooded, without evacuation of vulnerable families, while in Trgovište an emergency situation has been declared.

Coordination between the Red Cross structures, local authorities and other disaster response actors is being carried out through the emergency bodies, while on a higher level the Red Cross of Serbia and the State Emergency Authority have established a regular exchange of information.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On Tuesday, 26th February, the RC branches in Bujanovac, Preševo, Vranje and Trgovište sent to the Red Cross of Serbia Headquarters the first initial information bulletins about the consequences of floods and the rising water levels in the rivers.

The data received from the Red Cross branches in the affected territories were supplemented by data from the Office of Risk Management at the Department for Emergency Situations under the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia. In accordance with the established roles and tasks, as well as in accordance with the mandate of the Red Cross of Serbia for emergency situations, during the day they had consultations with members of the operational team of the Red Cross of Serbia HQ on the types and amounts of assistance that is necessary for mitigating the effects of floods and approached the

preparations for sending help in the form of professionally trained personnel, equipment and aid in kind. The local Red Cross branches activated their local disaster response unit members for field assessment and the evacuation of the most affected people.

Based on the first needs assessment in the field, done on 27th February in the early morning hours, the Red Cross of Serbia has sent the following assistance.

To the Red Cross Branch in Bujanovac:

Type of item (Equipment)	Quantity
National Mobile Technical Team (MTT)	1
Submersible motor pumps with hoses and tools	5 pcs
Submersible electrical water pumps and tools	25 pcs
Dehumidifiers – dryers for drying wet walls	25 pcs
Hand pumps for disinfectant	5 pcs

In kind relief items for 60 families in Bujanovac :

Type of item	Quantity
Family hygiene parcels	120 pcs
Concentrated disinfectant	120 lit
Rubber boots	80 pairs
Family food parcels	40 pcs
Foldable jerry cans 15 - 20 lit	200 pcs
Plastic buckets	60 pcs
Hand disinfectant	200 pcs
Hygiene sets for collective centres	4 sets
Blankets	120 pcs
Sets of tools for painting and house reparations	60 sets

In kind relief items for 50 families in to the Red Cross Branch in Presevo:

Type of item	Quantity
Family hygiene parcels	50 pcs
Concentrated disinfectant	50 lit
Rubber boots	50 pairs
Foldable jerry cans 15 - 20 lit	100 pcs
Plastic buckets	50 pcs
Hygiene sets for collective centres	2 sets
Sets of tools for painting and house reparations	23 sets
Plastic Sheets 200 m2	3 rolls

Disaster response team work

The Red Cross of Serbia mobilized and sent to Bujanovac one National Mobile Technical Team (MTT) on 27th of February in the early morning. This team started the field work early in the afternoon. Their commitment is to build up local Red Cross branch capacities for special disaster response (DR) activities, working on a rapid pumping of the water out of the flooded basements and homes, after the water withdraws, drying the wet walls, disinfecting the environment, gathering information for detailed field assessment for preparation of a plan of action for the response and reconstruction phase.

At the same time, members of the Mobile Technical Team will train local Red Cross Branch Disaster Response Team members on how to use the Red Cross technical equipment that they have at their disposal. National team members are accommodated in special Red Cross of Serbia camp trailers. This team of the Red Cross of Serbia will remain operational as scheduled until 3rd of March, but if necessary, the RCS is planning a new shift for the next seven days as well.



Red Cross of Serbia National Mobile Technical Team member is dehumidifying the flooded home on 27th February. Photo: Red Cross of Serbia

Current situation and future expectations

- Based on present information from the local Red Cross Branch secretaries and from the MTT leader in Bujanovac, Preševo and Trgovište, the situation on the ground is the following.
- In the territory of Bujanovac and Preševo the water is slowly receding with decreasing water levels on the ground.
- MTT set in function submersible water pumps in 21 houses, submersible mud pumps in two houses, dehumidifiers in eleven houses. Other technical equipment will be deployed as soon as possible. The local Red Cross Disaster Response Unit distributed family food parcels and family hygiene parcels in the most affected village of Levosoje.
- In Trgovište the previously declared state of emergency has been cancelled.
- The Red Cross of Serbia continues to provide support to the most affected people in the flooded area so as to monitor the situation in the field, and act in accordance with the established objectives in the plan of action (PoA).
- The Red Cross of Serbia has so far provided assistance in accordance within its own stock limits and possibilities. In case of a deterioration of the situation in the field and the increasing needs of the vulnerable people, the Red Cross of Serbia will send a request for assistance to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

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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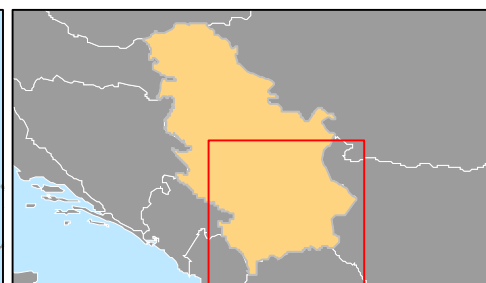
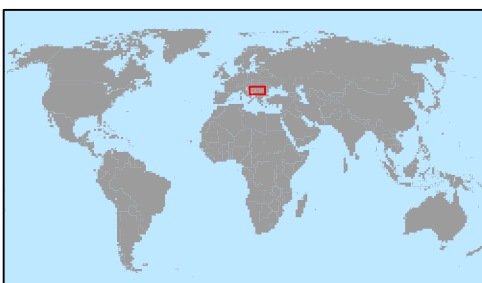
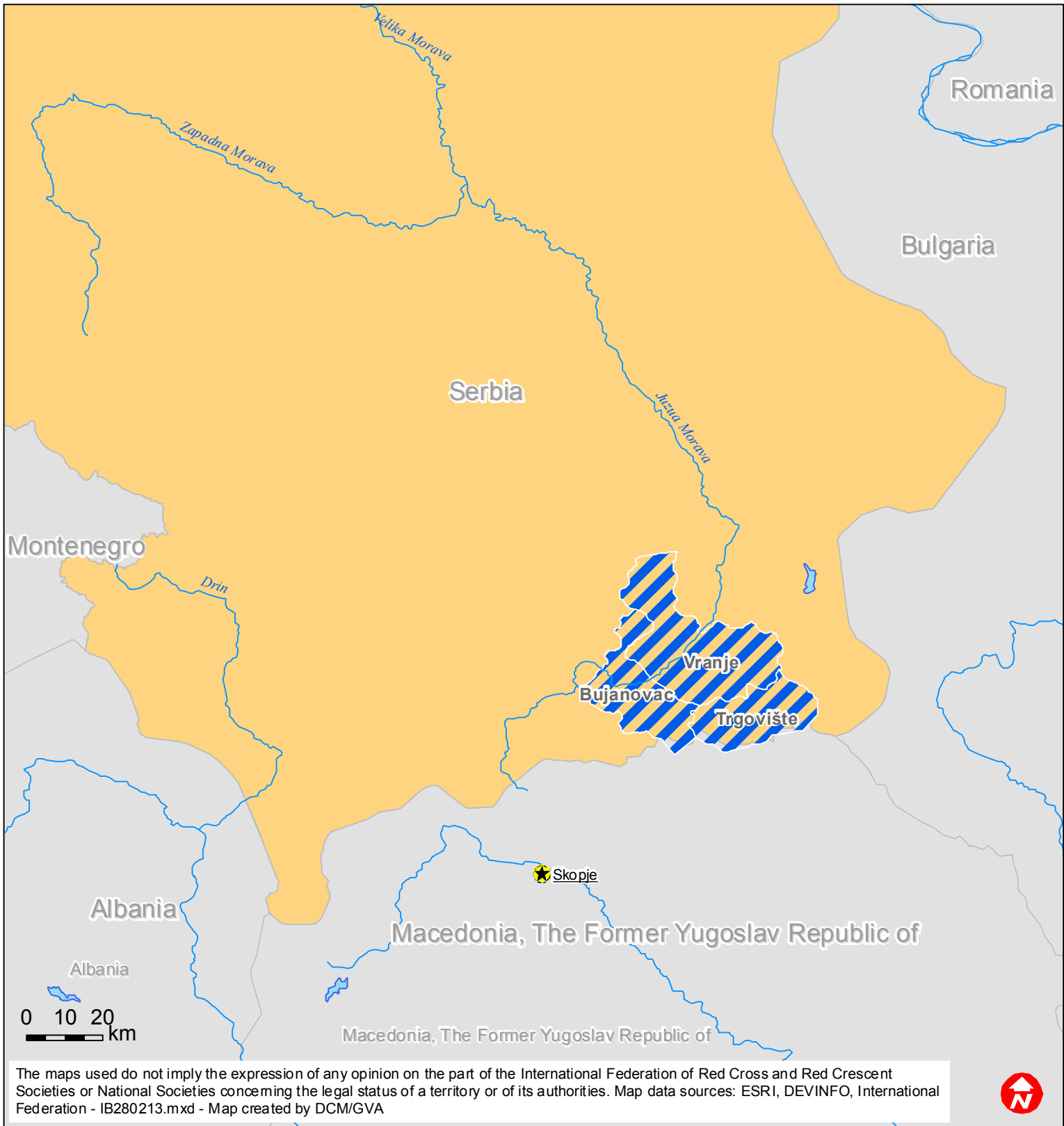



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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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 Affected areas