

# EMERGENCY APPEAL



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعية الصليب والهلال الأحمر

## SERBIA & MONTENEGRO: FLOODS

Appeal no. 05EA008

27 April 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

### In Brief

**THIS PRELIMINARY EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 496,310 (USD 420,247 OR EUR 321,486) IN CASH, TO ASSIST 4,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 6 MONTHS**

*(click here for attached Appeal budget)*

**CHF 100,000 HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) FOR RESPONSE TO THESE FLOODS IN SERBIA & MONTENEGRO**

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. [<click here>](#)

## The situation

Due to heavy rains in April and melting snow in the Carpathian Mountains of Romania, the water level of the river Tamis on the Romanian/Serbian border rose rapidly. As a consequence, on 20 April at 9pm the water spilled over the river banks and broke the dikes on the Romanian side of the river, flooding the area of Jasa Tomic village in Serbia. The village is in the municipality of Secanj, in the eastern part of Vojvodina province. The village has 2,996 inhabitants or 1,000 households, of which 60 percent are elderly and 40 percent live from agricultural production.

700 houses are flooded and 130 had been destroyed (by 26 April). Most of the houses are made of clay bricks, so there is concern that many more will be heavily damaged or destroyed when the water withdraws.

During the night of 20/21 April, 400 people were evacuated and accommodated with relatives and friends in Krajisnik village, 91 people in a primary school in Sutjeska village, 20 in a primary school in Secanj and 40 in a hotel in Secanj. Two people died. The evacuation of inhabitants, which continued on 21 April, was organised by Civil Protection and the Army.

There are three collective centres in the area where, by 21 April, almost 700 people were accommodated. Secanj municipality organised itself in response. Inhabitants strengthened the dikes with new sand bags with the support, at times, of heavy machines. All available tractors transported people and sand bags. The municipality received food donations from private donors, and collective centres prepared 700 hot meals on 21 April. The Red Cross donation of canned food was used for breakfast and dinner on 22 April.

There is no electricity or drinking water in the area. Water wells are flooded and the water distribution system affected, which resulted in water being polluted and not suitable for drinking. Military water cistern trucks are distributing clean water to the population. The Red Cross water tanks started to function on 22 April. The railway, bridges and road Vrsac-Zrenjanin are now endangered by rising water.

On April 26, the rain in Serbia/Vojvodina had stopped. However, it was still raining in Romania, with more predicted. The flooding in Serbia continues as the water level rises. 700 people have been evacuated from Medja village. They are being accommodated in the settlement of Srpski Itebej, 10 km away from Medja.

The river is flooding the large towns of Plandiste and Zitiste. There are 2,000 people accommodated in collective centres. The number of people accommodated with relatives and friends is over 1,500.

According to the Civil Protection of Serbia, the settlements of Plandiste, Zitiste, Nova Crnja, Secanj, Alibunar and Vrsac are endangered by a 15km wide wave of water from the Romanian side of the border. Their estimation is that out of 87,000 inhabitants in the area, 25,000 will be directly affected by floods.

The President of Serbia, Mr. Boris Tadic, visited the affected area on 22 April.

## Immediate intervention

The National Society's relief assistance distributed on 21 and 22 April 2005 included

Relief goods	NS HQ	Red Cross of Vojvodina	Red Cross of Serbia	Total
Cans of Sardines	2000 pcs			2000
Cans of Tuna-fish	900 pcs			900
Cans of Meat-paste	4000 pcs			4000
Soap	1000 pcs	60 kg	Hygiene items for collective centres	
Baby parcels	15 box			15
Blankets		1100 pcs	1000 pcs	2100
Mattresses		244 pcs	700 pcs	944
Kitchen sets (5 persons)		100 sets	200 sets	300

Jerry cans (15 lit.)	500 pcs	300 pcs	800
Candles	2000 pcs	1000 pcs	3000
Shoes	500 pair		500
Raincoats and rubber boots	30		30
Water tanks (1200 lit)	2 tanks	1 tank	3

Two National Society emergency teams have been mobilised, one from the Red Cross of Vojvodina (Novi Sad) and one from the National Society's HQ (responsible for warehousing and transportation).

The Local Red Cross branch Secanj is responsible for coordination, acceptance and distribution of private donations. Many local inhabitants joined the Red Cross to help the branch Secretary.

Disaster Management coordinators from the Serbia and Montenegro country delegation and the National Society conducted assessments in the affected area on 21 April. Based on their assessment, the second shipment from the NS was sent to Secanj on 22 April.

The National Society has no more reserves of food. Assistance in blankets, mattresses, hygiene items, disinfectants and similar will be needed.

### **DREF allocation**

CHF 100,000 was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 22 April 2005 to assist in the start of the relief operation.

Serbia and Montenegro country delegation has procured and delivered to the National Society:

- 8,000 cans of meat
- 16,000 cans of meat-paste
- 14 sets of bulk hygiene items for collective centres

On 22 April, 7 hygiene sets for collective centres have been purchased by the delegation and delivered via the Red Cross of Serbia to Secanj municipality (four collective centres), Zitiste municipality (two collective centres) and Plandiste (this one kept in reserve). Seven more have been procured and are kept in reserve in the Red Cross of Serbia warehouse. Alongside these hygiene sets, Plandiste has received 3000 meat cans and 6000 meat paste cans and Zitiste has received 1400 meat cans and 2800 meat paste cans. The remaining food is stored in Red Cross of Serbia warehouse and will be distributed as necessary.

## **The needs**

### **Immediate needs:**

According to the assessment on 22 April, by the delegation and the National Society disaster managers, there are 4,000 beneficiaries, mainly in collective centres and their immediate needs are

- 2,000 hygiene parcels
- 30 Baby parcels
- 5,000 blankets
- 3,000 mattresses
- 500 kitchen sets
- 5,000 jerry cans (15 lit.)
- 100 boots and raincoats

### **Longer-term needs:**

It is estimated that the longer-term needs would involve a six-month intervention to assist at least 4,000 of the most vulnerable flood victims with hygiene items (individual and collective use), psychosocial support and the service of Red Cross technical mobile teams (including handyman work on water, sewage and electricity installations as well as dehumidification of houses). The beneficiaries have been selected according to the following criteria: elderly

over 65 years of age and people with chronic illnesses, whose houses were damaged or destroyed (in this case, the government will rebuild the houses, see below) Affected municipalities are: Secanj (villages: Jasa Tomic, Krajisnik and Sutjeska), Zitiste (villages: Medja and Srpski Itebej) and Plandiste (villages: Markovicevo and Banatski Sokolac).

The hygiene items (individual and collective) will be distributed in three instalments, one every two months, to beneficiaries accommodated at their relatives' as well as to those accommodated in collective centres. Psychosocial support will be provided through teams of volunteers to both. It is estimated that at least three teams (4-7 members of differing profile s) would be needed to cover all the beneficiaries across the two affected municipalities. The three Red Cross Technical Mobile Teams will cover all three municipalities, utilising the vehicles and dehumidification equipment of the National Society.

### **Coordination**

So far, there has been good coordination and cooperation between all actors (local authority, Civil Protection, Red Cross, Army, Police, Health Centres and inhabitants). The local Red Cross in cooperation and coordination with Civil Protection and local authorities is involved in all field activities and is responsible for organisation and provision of care for the affected population. In both, Secanj and Plandiste, Red Cross is a member of the local emergency headquarters. In general, the roles and responsibilities between different actors have been clear and complementary: the Civil Protection organised evacuation of the affected population, the Army helped with boats, heavy machines, trucks and clean water while private donors provided food and Red Cross activities as listed above have been in accordance with the overall course of the action.

The government of Serbia provided 60 million dinars (approximately CHF 1,140,000) in financial support, food from food reserves, medicines, tents and blankets.

Over the course of longer term assistance, National Society representatives will ensure close contact with the government officials responsible for the recovery operation. As the government plans to rebuild the destroyed houses, the Red Cross will work on reconstruction of the damaged ones in order to make them habitable again.

## **The proposed operation**

### **Emergency relief (food and non-food)**

**Objective 1:** The most vulnerable beneficiaries' food needs within the first 48 hours are met with the provision of emergency food assistance (meat cans and meat paste)

#### **Activities:**

Procurement and distribution of 16,000 meat paste cans and 8,000 meat cans to cover approximately 8,000 beneficiaries in the affected area. The food is to be procured centrally, delivered to the Red Cross of Serbia warehouse. The Red Cross of Serbia is to deliver the food to the beneficiaries, using their logistics department.

**Objective 2** The most vulnerable beneficiaries' hygiene needs are met through the provision of hygiene sets for collective centres, family hygiene parcels and baby hygiene sets.

#### **Activities:**

Procurement and distribution of 21 hygiene sets for collective centres to cover approximately 2,000 beneficiaries. Procurement and distribution of 6,000 family hygiene parcels. Procurement and distribution of 15 baby sets to cover 15 families. These hygiene items are procured centrally, delivered to the Red Cross of Serbia warehouse and the Red Cross of Serbia is delivering the food to the beneficiaries, using their logistics department. The distribution to the beneficiaries themselves will be done in three instalments: one instalment immediately and then two others over two-month periods, so as to cover the six months period of this appeal for 4,000 beneficiaries in all.

## **Psychosocial support**

**Objective:** The beneficiaries are, through assistance and support, empowered to better cope with the situation and take an active participation in the relief and reconstruction efforts.

**Activities:**

To form three psychosocial support teams consisting of experts and volunteers with experience in this field of work. The teams are to visit the most vulnerable beneficiaries regularly, offer them support and encouragement throughout the six months period. The beneficiaries will be assisted in coping with the crisis and supported to be as active as possible in the activities leading to the reconstruction of their households. Self help and community help will be heavily emphasised as to utilise the resources of the beneficiaries themselves to help each other.

## **Mobile Technical Teams**

**Objective:** The most vulnerable beneficiaries are assisted in reconstruction of their households by teams of skilled professionals over the six months period.

**Activities:**

Procurement of three pickup vehicles to be used by mobile teams in the affected area. Procurement of toolkits to be used in the reconstruction of houses by the teams. Contracting appropriate professionals to form the teams for the six months period.

The teams are to work on approximately 700 damaged houses over the course of six months. Their activities will include: dehumidification of houses, handyman works on water, sewage and electrical installations and wall-painting. These activities are meant to be done as necessary in each individual case and as complementary activities to the work done by other actors (beneficiaries themselves, local government, central government, and other humanitarian organisations). The expected result is to have all the houses inhabitable after the period expires.

## **Communications – Advocacy and Public information**

The National Society, with Federation support will take on the bulk of the responsibility to inform the public about the needs, the Red Cross activities to meet those needs and the outstanding needs of the affected population. The emphasis in information and advocacy will be on gender and poverty aspects of the disaster and the need for a coordinated community approach to the intervention.

## **Capacity of the National Society**

The National Society in Serbia and Montenegro has considerable experience in relief distribution and the immediate response to the floods reflects this fact well. The three municipal branches in the affected area at the moment are utilising approximately 100 volunteers. As the situation changes, more volunteers are ready to be deployed from neighbouring municipal branches. The National Society has a well functioning relief distribution system that is being used. The coordination between the federal, republic, provincial and municipal level is smooth.

## **Capacity of the Federation**

The Federation has a country delegation in Belgrade, which consists of a Head of Delegation and includes a Disaster Management Coordinator as well as a logistics / procurement officer, a reporting officer, a financial manager and a financial officer. The Regional Delegation in Budapest, through the Regional DM Coordinator based in Trebinje (BiH) provides support and overall coordination.

**Monitoring and evaluation**

The activities in the field will be monitored on a monthly basis through field visits. The National Society will provide monthly reports regarding the activities and the results achieved, as well as the final report, that will serve as basis for the evaluation. The Regional Delegation will provide back up as necessary.

**Budget summary**

See Annex 1 for details

**Susan Johnson****Director national society field support****Markku Niskala****Secretary-general**

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

APPEAL No. 05EA008

Serbia and Montenegro Floods

TYPE	VALUE	
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>IN CHF</b>	
Shelter and construction	119,000	
Clothing and textiles	89,000	
Food	18,000	
Utensils and tools	64,500	
Other relief supplies	46,200	
<b>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</b>		<b>336,700</b>
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<b><u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u></b>		
Vehicles	36,000	
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>		
Programme support (6.5% of total)	32,260	
<b><u>TRANSPORT STORAGE &amp; VEHICLE COSTS</u></b>		
Warehousing and distribution	27,000	
Transport & vehicle costs	4,900	
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>		
National staff	35,050	
Consultants	21,600	
<b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; GENERAL SERVICES</u></b>		
Administrative & general expenses	2,250	
Communications	550	
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</b>		<b>159,610</b>
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<b>TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES</b>	-	<b>496,310</b>
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<b>LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)</b>		<b>-</b>
<b>NET REQUEST</b>		<b>496,310</b>
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