

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



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 لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## ROMANIA: FLOODS

22 July 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

**Appeal No. 05EA009 Operations Update no. 3; Period covered: 9 May – 22 July, 2005; Appeal coverage: 23.7%;** (*Please click here to go directly to the Contributions List available on the website*)

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 29 April 2005 for CHF 1,055,000 (USD 819,680 or EUR 674,715) to assist 4,500 beneficiaries for 6 months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated CHF 160,428 (USD 124,605 or EUR 102,630).

**Outstanding Needs: CHF 637,113**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Minor Emergency (05ME039) bulletin issued on 7 July 2005. For details, please see the website at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05ME039.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME039.pdf)**

**Operational Summary:** The plan of action has been revised to take into account the continuing flooding, the larger affected area and the latest information emerging from continuing needs assessment being conducted by the Romanian Red Cross. This plan also takes into account the known and/or expected response from donors through the International Federation and on a bilateral basis. Austrian, Belgian, Danish, German, Hungarian, and Swiss Red Cross are organizing bilateral relief assistance, covering a portion of the needs. The British and Danish Red Cross are also discussing contributions to the relief operation and appeal. For this reason, the overall budget for this emergency appeal has not changed and remains at CHF 1,055,000. However, changes have been made to the type and quantity of relief items sought, as well as to the area to be covered by this appeal. The appeal was originally launched to cover relief distributed in Timis and Caras Severin counties. As continued flooding now affects 31 out of 48 counties in Romania, the area of coverage within this appeal has been widened. The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation will continue to be used as per the original plan and contributions are welcomed to enable continued emergency relief assistance as per the revised needs detailed below. The timeframe for the operation continues to be six months with reporting by the end of the year.

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## Background

With the country still recovering from a major wave of flooding in April, continuing heavy rains have now caused further flooding and destruction in a total of 31 counties in Romania. During 9-15 July, some 468 localities have been affected, killing 20 people, with 4 persons reported missing, 7,029 evacuated from their homes, and a total of 14,669 households affected.

The flooding has caused havoc to communication lines and infrastructure: the water supply, electricity, gas and phone networks have been brought to a standstill in the flooded regions; access to the areas remains difficult with 1,097 bridges and 1,056 km of roads damaged; 13,138 houses are affected, 53,782 hectares of agricultural land and 11,189 wells have been flooded, 3,073 animals and birds killed and 141 social institutions affected. A children's holiday camp, 10 villages and 30 families remain isolated. The inter-ministerial commission for emergency situations has been providing updated statistics.

## Operational developments

The Romanian Red Cross disaster response department is continuing to coordinate relief efforts with branches, local volunteers and Romanian members of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT). Assessments have been on-going over the past week. A further field assessment mission is planned for early next week (beginning 26 July), once the assessment team has been reinforced with an RDRT member from the Red Cross of Serbia & Montenegro and a delegate of the Swiss Red Cross.



**Romanian Red Cross distribution in the field**

In **Vrancea Branch**, members of the disaster response units, together with the director, have helped to evacuate the flood victims, using the transportation means available to the branch. Beginning on 13 July, hot meals have been delivered by the branch mobile kitchen. Disaster-preparedness stocks have been depleted. The branch has asked for additional materials from the central warehouse (2 tents, 270 blankets, 400 sleeping bags, 250 bedclothes, 1008 soaps, 200 detergent bags, 300 pairs of shoes.)

In **Galati Branch**, members of the disaster response units have helped to evacuate flood victims from Galati municipality. A total of 1000 pieces of bread have been delivered to flood victims. An assessment of the needs of the affected persons in Galati county has been undertaken. Donations of bread, mineral water

and food are requested for the flood victims. By 17 July, 4000 litres of water, 1800 cans of food, 1200 kg of flour, salt, sugar, rice, oil, biscuits (80 boxes), 1 refrigerator, and 2 cookers had been distributed.

In **Olt Branch**, volunteers have distributed sleeping bags and mineral water to the flood victims. After a fundraising campaign, the branch also distributed food, flour, corn flour, sugar, oil and detergent.

In **Bacau Branch**, distribution of food continues in Goioasa, Comanesti, Urechesti, Garleni, and Palanca. A mobile kitchen is working in Comanesti and a water purification unit is installed in Slanic Moldova. **Vaslui Branch** has transported food (cans) to Galati. **Braila Branch** has transported to Galati and Vrancea an amount of 40.000.000 lei (CHF 1,750), bread (1000 pieces), water, potatoes (1800 kg.), juice, cans, margarine, cheese, sausages, fish.

In **Teleorman Branch**, 2 water purification units are working in Mereni and Vartoape. Clothes have also been distributed to the flood victims. **Timis Branch** continues to assist the flood victims from the first wave of flooding in April - May 2005 (tents, bedclothes, jerry cans, linens, rubber boots, shoes, hygiene and food packages).

**Mehedinti Branch** has helped flood victims from 3 locations with 42 blankets and 42 bedclothes. It has also started a local fundraising campaign.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

According to the original plan of action for this Emergency Appeal, the overall goal remains unchanged:

**Goal:** To alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable flood victims. The main beneficiary groups are:

- Elderly people and children;
- Single parent households;
- People whose houses are damaged or destroyed.

### Objectives

- To provide potable water for 10,000 people in the affected area for 2 months.
- To provide humanitarian assistance to 4,500 evacuated people and those severely affected by the flooding.
- To promote the activities of the Red Cross and strengthen the Romanian Red Cross image.

### Progress/Achievements

#### Distribution

Initial distributions in Timis and Caras Severin counties have taken place according to the plan of action, and covered by the initial DREF allocation of CHF 160,428.

Relief Item Purchased	Number of Pieces
Plastic sheeting	600 m <sup>2</sup>
Blankets	1,750
Bed linen, pillow cases	1,000
Rubber boots	1,000
Underwear, T-shirts	1,000
Jerry cans	1,500
Hygiene kits	4,500



**Red Cross volunteers helping people to save their property**

During the second phase and with cash contributions to this Emergency Appeal from the British, Japanese, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross and the Turkish Red Crescent, food parcels and a vehicle for delivery to isolated areas will be purchased for distribution, and following tendering procedures.

However, as the scope of the disaster has extended throughout the country, new needs assessment missions have been ongoing during July. Beneficiary lists are being established and purchase and distribution will proceed according to the latest information from the needs assessment: Bilateral donations have also been received from sister National Societies, as well as the cash contributions to the appeal from the British, Japanese, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross and the Turkish Red Crescent.

The latest needs are shown in the table below. Items to be purchased with the 2<sup>nd</sup> DREF allocation made through the Minor Emergency bulletin of 7 July in an amount of CHF 240,938 are indicated. In addition, bilateral donations will cover some of the outstanding needs. In the final column, the uncovered needs are highlighted. Discussions are still continuing with a number of national societies concerning possible relief donations. The Slovak Red Cross has announced a donation of disinfectants and hygiene items to the Romanian Red Cross, and confirmation is expected from the Danish Red Cross regarding hygiene parcels. The Hungarian Red Cross has sent one relief consignment to Bacau branch and launched a national fundraising campaign. The Austrian Red Cross has also indicated that they will launch a public fundraising campaign to assist the victims of the flooding. Discussions continue with the British Red Cross concerning a possible contribution to a revised Emergency Appeal.

Relief Items	Latest Needs (units)	Units purchased with 2 <sup>nd</sup> DREF allocation	Units being provided through bilateral donations	Units Uncovered
Food parcels for 5 months	6000			6000
Baby hygiene parcels	3000		500 Belgian RC	2500
Family hygiene parcels	3600			3600
Blankets	7000	2300	2000 Austrian RC 2000 Bulgarian RC	700
Bed linen	7000		3,000 Austrian RC	4000
Sleeping bags	7000	2000		5000
Tents for family	500			500
Rubber boots	7000	2300		4700
Soaps	25,000		25,000, Austrian RC	0
Mats	2000		2000 Austrian RC	0
Washable diapers	4800	2160		2640
Jerry cans	2000	1300	200 Bulgarian RC	500
Basins (for washing babies)	400	180		220
Basins (washing)	1200	650		550
Kitchen sets	1200	650		550
Kit, water testing portable Microbiological laboratory	7			7
Kit, water treatment, Sanitation kit	7			7

In addition, local donations have been received in Romania from local and national companies including: Henkel Romania (disinfectants and detergents), OMV (cash donation), Petrom (cash donation), Colgate Palmolive (cash donation). This has shown the strength of the Romanian Red Cross to raise local contributions and the trust the national society has established amongst the general public and corporate sector.

### Federation Coordination

The Federation's disaster management coordinator is in regular communication with all partners: Romanian Red Cross headquarters, Regional Disaster Response Team, sister National Societies, in an effort to facilitate the coordination of contributions to this relief operation – through this Emergency Appeal. In addition, information is being shared and advice given regarding bilateral donations. The Federation is urging National Societies who would like to contribute to this relief effort to consider this revised Emergency Appeal and possible cash contributions.

*[Please click here to return to the title page and contact information](#)*