

# MINOR EMERGENCY



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

## BULGARIA: FLOODS

No.05ME047  
8 August 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

**THE BULGARIAN RED CROSS HAS BEEN GRANTED CHF 142,309.85 (USD 110,470 OR EUR 91,931) FROM THE FEDERATION'S DREF TO ASSIST 2,400 FAMILIES FOR 1 MONTH. PARTNERS ARE INVITED TO SUPPORT THE OPERATION BY REIMBURSING DREF.**

*For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

- National Society: Bulgarian Red Cross, Jassen Slivensky, Disaster Management Coordinator, email: [j.slivensky@redcross.bg](mailto:j.slivensky@redcross.bg), phone: +359 281 64898
- Central Europe Regional Delegation: Slobodanka Curic, Regional Disaster Management Coordinator, email: [ifrchu41@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrchu41@ifrc.org), phone: +387 65 665 747
- Federation Secretariat: Erja Reinikainen (Regional Officer); email: [Erja.Reinikainen@ifrc.org](mailto:Erja.Reinikainen@ifrc.org), Phone 41 22 730 43 19; Fax 41 22 733 03 95

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

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

### The situation

As a result of heavy rains and storms, which have hit Bulgaria since the end of May 2005 and are continuing throughout the country, 27 municipalities in Bulgaria have been affected to date. The flooding has caused severe damage to public and private buildings (over 48,425 in total), destroyed and damaged bridges (over 70 affected), disrupted water supply systems (36), activated landslides, and damaged 28 dikes and dams.

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The latest bout of rainfall up to August 6 saw more than 5500 people in the affected regions - Sofia, Pazardjik, Plovdiv, Smoljan in South Bulgaria, and Vratza in the NorthWest - evacuated to collective centres. Up to 10,000 evacuations in total are expected.

On 4 August a State of Disaster was declared in the Municipalities of Ihtiman, Gorna Malina (villages of Gorna Malina, Belopoltsi, Negushevo, Chekanchevo, Makotsevo, Dolno Kamartsi, Gorno Kamartsi, Sarantsi, Sturgel, and Dolna Malina) and Kostenets. Bulgarian Red Cross have been closely involved with various emergency services in various disaster response.

In addition, in a number of places, the public infrastructure has been destroyed or seriously damaged. Several people have been reported dead, arable land has been flooded and crops destroyed, basements and gardens are under water and cattle have drowned.



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Overall, the most seriously affected regions are Targovishte, Veliko Tirnov, Shoumen, Stara Zagora and Rousse and several municipalities in the regions of Haskovo, Bourgas, Vratza and Lovetch, Sofia region. A state of emergency was declared in five municipalities in Shumen region, and three in the region of Targovishte, Stara Zagora.

The disaster assessment is ongoing as the situation develops and the heavy rains continue. While state institutions and local authorities mounted relief efforts, the situation worsened once again from the 1 July as heavy rains continued, affecting the same areas as well as new ones, this time including southern Bulgaria.

Among the latest regions to be affected are Targovishte, Veliko Tarnovo, Rousse, Shoumen, Silistra in northern Bulgaria and Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Plovdiv, Pazardjik Plovdiv and Burgas in southern Bulgaria.

A state of emergency has been declared in the municipalities of Rousse, Dve Mogili, Targovishte, Popovo and Shoumen regions. The water level of the Vit, Osam, Baniska and Jantra rivers has rapidly increased to 3 to 5 meters above normal, which has damaged roads, railways, electro and water supply systems, telecommunications, as well as individual property (flooded basements, houses and farms). The railway lines connecting Sofia with the northern part of the country – Targovishte, Shoumen and Varna – are flooded and trains are not functioning at several locations. During the night of 3 July 2005, passengers were evacuated by bus.

By 19 July, 161 houses in the affected regions were reported collapsed and 110 uninhabitable, 48,425 residential and public buildings were flooded, 62 bridges destroyed, 68 landslides were activated and about 62,000 hectares agricultural land flooded.

The non-official data from state institutions is that the damages are for 257 million BGN (approximately 128 million Euro), which is not including damages on roads, railways and electric supply systems which are for tens of millions of BGN. At the moment, an assessment team of the European Union Commission is estimating the damages.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far

### Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

**Goal: Distribution of relief items - food and non-food items - to those most affected by the floods**

**Objective 1:** Basic food items distributed to 2,400 families (10,000 persons)

Food items will be purchased at Bulgarian Red Cross central level (National Headquarters) and distributed locally by regional branches.

**Objective 2:** Basic non-food items distributed to 2,400 families (10,000 persons)

This involves the distribution of standard family hygiene parcels and other relief items according to the needs.

The following activities will be undertaken to fulfill this objective:

- prepare guidelines for relief operation in Bulgarian Red Cross branches
- prepare list of beneficiaries
- procure relief items in Bulgaria
- deliver non-food relief items through National Headquarters to the Bulgarian Red Cross local branches
- organize distribution to the beneficiaries locally
- prepare system of data reporting, according to the Bulgarian Red Cross system and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) requirements and monitoring of distribution

### Progress/Achievements



**Since the beginning of the floods alert, the Bulgarian Red Cross has been involved in the operation by deploying relief distribution from its logistics centres – Lozen Central Warehouse and Pirgovo (Russe) and Dobrich inter-regional disaster warehouses**

Since the beginning of the floods alert on 2 July 2005 at 03.50am, the Bulgarian Red Cross has been involved in the operation. The Bulgarian Red Cross has deployed relief distribution from its logistics centres – Lozen Central Warehouse and Pirgovo (Russe) and Dobrich inter-regional disaster warehouses.

#### **Rousse branch (Bulgarian Red Cross)**

Bed linen, mattresses, shoes, clothes and blankets were distributed to the most affected villages in Rousse region: Baniska (which was hit by floods for the second time in 20 days), Koprivec, Drjanovec and others. Seventy of the most affected people also received food assistance. The Youth Emergency team of Bulgarian Red Cross Rousse branch has also been involved in the relief operation, providing assistance to the most affected population. By 20 July, the Red Cross Rousse branch had provided 470 blankets, 306 bed linen set, 38 bales clothes, and 20 beds/ camping type.

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### **Targovishte branch (Bulgarian Red Cross)**

The whole region was hit by severe flooding on 3 July. During the night, the city of Targovishte and other municipalities in the region were flooded and blocked (Popovo municipality). The Targovishte branch of the Bulgarian Red Cross distributed clothes, rubber boots, raincoats and blankets. By the morning of 4 July, almost the entire local Red Cross stock was depleted. A request for delivery of additional relief items was sent to the Bulgarian Red Cross National Headquarters.

On 5 July 2005, a Bulgarian Red Cross truck with 700 blankets, 20 bales of clothes, 700 pieces of canned soup, pasta and 20 humidity dryers reached the affected municipalities in Targovishte region. Until 20th of July, Red Cross Targovishte branch supported the most affected people in the region with basic relief items- blankets, bed linen, food items etc.

### **Shoumen branch (Bulgarian Red Cross)**

A state of emergency was declared covering the whole region on 3 July. There are 23 houses reported collapsed, people have been evacuated from their homes and accommodated in collective centres. The Bulgarian Red Cross Shoumen branch worked throughout the night to distribute relief items. On 5 July, additional support from inter-regional warehouse Dobrich was delivered - mattresses, blankets, bed linen, and bales of clothes. Using its own financial resources, the Red Cross purchased food items for the most affected people. The operation continued and at the moment the Red Cross Shoumen branch is preparing food parcels for the most affected.

### **Other Bulgarian Red Cross branches**

The National Society headquarters has received requests for assistance from Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Veliko Tarnovo, Pazarjik, Burgas, Silistra regions, etc. Immediate response according to the needs was organized through the interregional warehouses and the Central Warehouse of Bulgarian Red Cross.

By 20 July, the Bulgarian Red Cross had distributed the following items from its reserves:

- 2,000 blankets
- 140 bales of clothes x 50 persons each
- 650 bed linen sets
- 155 pillows
- 55 camping beds
- 100 mattresses
- 420 food items/food parcels/
- 30 dehumidifiers

### **Outstanding Needs**

Following the initial relief distributions, the following outstanding needs remain:

- Food parcels 2,400
- Hygiene parcels 2,400
- Rubber boots 1,500
- Rubber boots 200 /fisherman type
- Blankets 5,000
- Bed linen 2,000
- Pillows 1,000
- Mattresses 1,000 / 75/190 cm/
- Torches 1,000
- Sleeping bags 500

In response to the disaster, the Bulgarian Red Cross has been working with its local branches to identify the most vulnerable among the affected population. The relief operation should cover the basic needs of those affected by the disasters, based on the following criteria:

- elderly people over 60 years, living alone;

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- single women with children;
- disabled and handicapped;
- low-income families living under the social minimum

The objective of the operation is to distribute the relief items for covering basic emergency needs of the above mentioned beneficiaries over one month, depending on funding.

### **Assessment**

The Bulgarian Red Cross's regional teams have made assessment on the field in their own regions and succeed to collect precise data about the needs of the affected population and scale of the floods. Bulgarian Red Cross – Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response Department summarized the data of all affected regions, and coordinated the whole operation with the branches and all partners. Assessment team members from National Headquarters have visited Targovishte, Bourgas Pazardjik, Plovdiv Shumen and Veliko Tarnovo regions and provided support to Red Cross's staff and volunteers there in their efforts to assist the affected people. According to the Bulgarian Red Cross assessment, in cooperation with Agency for Civil Protection, the number of affected population which needs basic support is larger than 46,000 people. That is why the Bulgarian Red Cross needs assistance from its partners in the Movement in order to cover the basic needs of larger number of affected people. Other agencies which are also involved (UNDP, CARE, Caritas ) in the assistance are in contact with the Bulgarian Red Cross coordinating the relief provided by them in order to cover some of the remaining needs.

### **Impact**

Through the Red Cross response to date, some 5,000 people have received support (food and non food items) during the first hours and days of the floods. The most affected people received clothes, blankets, bed linen and food items immediately from the Red Cross branches in the affected regions. Additional support was provided from the Central warehouse of Bulgarian Red Cross Lozen: canned food, pasta, and disinfectants. This response has assisted the most vulnerable in coping with the immediate situation.

Bulgarian Red Cross regional teams have assessed their own regions and collected data on needs and scale of the floods. The Red Cross National Headquarters has summarized the data and has coordinated the operation throughout the country. Assessment team members from National Headquarters have visited Targovishte, Bourgas, Pazardjik and Plovdiv regions and have provided support to Bulgarian Red Cross staff there.

### **Constraints**

The major constraint has been the large number of people in need, and insufficient support available to respond to the needs of the affected population within the immediate post-disaster period. The scope of the disaster, affecting a large number of regions and municipalities at the same time, has also been a constraining factor.

### **Federation Coordination**

The whole Bulgarian Red Cross operation is in coordination with the Federation through contacts with the regional disaster management coordinator of the Federation's regional delegation in Budapest. Regional branches of the Bulgarian Red Cross remained in daily contact with the relevant authorities and the civil protection agency, mayors of affected villages and cities to monitor the situation and to develop their response initiatives.

The Bulgarian Red Cross has made a request to the International Federation for CHF 142,309.85 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for basic relief items that would be used to assist 2,400 families for one month. The relief would involve blankets, bedding sets, pillows, mattresses, rubber boots, food parcels, torches, hygiene parcels and sleeping bags (Please see the detailed budget attached to the end of the document). The goods would be procured locally.

### **Partner National Society support to the Bulgarian Red Cross operation:**

The Spanish Red Cross has donated EUR 18,000 for water pumps and generators. The US Government - through United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the American Red Cross office in Sofia - has provided financial support (USD 50,000) to implement a project to assist 3,000 beneficiaries from seven regions in Bulgaria: Rousse, Targovishte, Veliko Tarnovo, Shumen Stara Zagora, Pazardjik and Haskovo (those most affected by the floods). The Turkish Red Crescent has announced USD 5,000 to support the Bulgarian Red Cross operation.

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The Austrian Red Cross has announced a possible donation of EUR 2,500 for rubber boots and the Luxembourg Red Cross has announced a donation in hygiene parcels.

### National Society Capacity

The Bulgarian Red Cross's capacity to respond to the situation is limited in view of the scope of the disaster. In order to organize the emergency response through its local branches, the Bulgarian Red Cross has identified the most vulnerable of the affected population. The Bulgarian Red Cross's branch assessment teams are providing detailed information coordinated with other partners.

The situation is serious, demands are increasing and the number of affected is high. The relief items that are procured from the DREF fund as well as those distributed from Bulgarian Red Cross stocks, are insufficient to cover the basic needs of the most vulnerable in all affected regions. For this reason, the Bulgarian Red Cross is seeking assistance to cover the needs of the most vulnerable with basic relief items.

### Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Bulgarian Red Cross appealed to the population for cash contributions for the flood victims in Bulgaria on 5 July 2005, through the National TV, bTV, and national radio and at its regional offices. By 20 July, BGN 53,000 (EUR 26,500) had been collected. An amount of BGN 39,000 (EUR19,500) was transferred on 18 July to the most affected regions.

A daily update of the Bulgarian Red Cross operation is publicized on the National Society's official web page: <http://www.redcross.bg>.

### Reporting

Narrative and financial reports will be produced according to the Federation requirements.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring will be undertaken by the Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response Department and Logistics Department in conjunction with branch directors and partners. Field visits will be undertaken to verify the receipt of items by families listed as beneficiaries. Should additional need be identified during visits, this will be recorded and reported to the Bulgarian Red Cross Headquarters. Written reports will be produced by the Bulgarian Red Cross staff with information collected during these field visits.

Throughout the distribution of packages to beneficiaries, ongoing evaluation of activities will be undertaken and reported at regular Bulgarian Red Cross meetings.

### Budget Outline

#### BRC Floods relief operation Budget

Budget line	Qty	Unit price (BGN, VAT included)	Total EUR	Total CHF
<b>Relief item</b>				
Blankets	3000	7,00	€ 10,747.18	CHF 16,636.63
Bedding sets	2000	15,00	€ 15,353.12	CHF 23,766.63
Pillows	1000	4,50	€ 2,302.97	CHF 3,565.00
Mattresses (75x190 cm)	1000	30,00	€ 15,353.12	CHF 23,766.63
Food parcels	2400	16,00	€ 19,652.00	CHF 30,421.30
Sleeping bags	500	30,00	€ 7,676.56	CHF 11,883.31
			<b>EUR71,084.95</b>	<b>CHF 110,039.50</b>
<b>Operation costs</b>				
Transport and warehousing			€ 2,886.00	CHF 4,467.53
Local distribution			€ 1,817.50	CHF 2,813.49

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Monitoring, staff, communication and coordination			€ 5,263.75	CHF 8,148.28
			<b>€9,967.25</b>	<b>CHF 15,429.30</b>
<b>Administrative costs</b>				
			<b>€5,268.39</b>	<b>CHF 8,155.47</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>EUR86,320.59</b>	<b>CHF 133,624.27</b>
<b>PSR (6,5%)</b>			<b>EUR 5,610.84</b>	<b>CHF 8,685.58</b>
<b>FINAL TOTAL</b>			<b>EUR91,931.43</b>	<b>CHF 142,309.85</b>

**RATE BGN /Leva/EURO: 1.954 BGN for 1 EURO**  
**CHF/EURO : 1.546 CHF for 1 EURO**

**Note:** As Bulgarian Red Cross has reached a critical level of disaster stocks following distributions in response to this flood disaster; there is a need for replenishment of some of the relief supplies.

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