

# 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

**Appeal No.**  
**MDRRO001**  
**10 May 2006**

*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

Operations Update no. 01; Period covered: 30 April- 9 May 2006; Appeal target: CHF 2,427,200 (USD 1.9 million or EUR 1.5 million).

At this stage, cash pledges to cover operational running expenses and for local procurement are most urgently sought. Some donations and pledges have been received. A cash pledge of CHF 20,125 was received from Liechtenstein Red Cross and one for CHF 86,298 from the British Red Cross. These pledges are being processed and a contribution list will be released soon. [Click here for budget.](#)

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 29 April 2006 for CHF 2,427,200 (USD 1.9 million or EUR 1.5 million) for 3 months to assist 13,000 beneficiaries.
- The budget has been decreased to CHF 2,067,057; Final Report is therefore due on 31 October 2006.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 168,930.

Five weeks after Romania was hit by the heaviest flooding in more than 100 years, more of the Danube's river defence system continues to be destroyed and further evacuations of people in the affected areas have been carried out. A total of 226 locations in 22 counties have been affected with the south west and south east of the country the most impacted. In total, as of 5 May, 13,401 persons have been displaced to camps, host families and public buildings. The Preliminary Emergency Appeal launched on 29 April set out the framework to deliver assistance to the population affected by the flooding in Romania.

The response by Participating National Societies has already covered some of the relief items needed. Many donations have been made bilaterally rather than through the appeal system. The Federation urges National Societies to respond through the appeal system in order to ensure that programme support funds are available to cover critical local distribution and personnel costs, as well as to ensure logistical coordination and facilitate customs clearance. There are outstanding gaps for which cash is urgently requested. These are for local procurement of items needed in the operation, for the water / sanitation programme, currently seen as one of the most critical areas in operational response, and for operational running expenses – including key local personnel as well as the deployment of support from the Regional Disaster Response Team .

The Joint Romanian Red Cross, Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) has extended its original 14 day mission to the end of May 2006. Assessments are continuing in the field, where the situation has stabilized although further rains and flood alerts are possible over the coming 30 day period and more people may be evacuated. Based on the latest information from the field, the plan of action presented in the preliminary emergency appeal has been revised, together with the budget, as indicated in this Operations Update. The current relief operation underway with relief goods received from Participating National Societies is planned to come to an end at the end of May. The focus of the following two months will be on water / sanitation as well as hygiene promotion amongst the population

displaced by the disaster and currently living in camp accommodation.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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*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>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

## Background

Five weeks after Romania was hit by the heaviest flooding in more than 100 years, more of the Danube's river defence system continues to be destroyed and further evacuations of people in the affected areas have been carried out. A total of 226 locations in 22 counties have been affected with the south west and south east of the country the most impacted. In total, as of 5 May, 13,401 persons have been displaced to camps, host families and public buildings. Although evacuations are ongoing they are presently being done for precautionary reasons rather than as a result of renewed flooding. In some areas, people have begun returning to their homes, but in at least one location in Dolj county the evacuated population are likely to remain in camps for the foreseeable future as the village of 4,000 inhabitants will be relocated permanently according to the authorities.

However, although at the moment the situation has stabilised in comparison to the last month, concern remains that the level of the Danube will continue to rise over the next 30 days, possibly resulting in new displacement.

Following a joint Romanian Red Cross (RRC), Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) assessment, the Federation launched a preliminary emergency appeal to provide shelter and other non-food items as well as water and sanitation services worth CHF 2.4 million to some 13,000 beneficiaries for a period of up to six months. Reassessment of the situation by RRC and intensified coordination between the humanitarian community and the authorities is ongoing. Further reassessment, particularly in the health sector is underway.

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The Federation released CHF 168,930 from its DREF to launch the operation. National Societies in the region have responded immediately with offers. In-kind and shipments from the Turkish, German, Austrian and Swiss societies have already been received; others from Belgium and Slovenia are being arranged. Distribution of some of the items received (blankets, hygiene parcels and bottled water) has already begun, in addition to the items already distributed by the Romanian Red Cross. A detailed distribution plan for these items with a timeframe is being developed. Similarly, planning for a significant response in the water / sanitation sector, focussing on water provision, sanitation and hygiene promotion is well developed with implementation starting during the coming week. A key gap identified by the assessment is in the health sector and an assessment mission by a public health specialist is being planned.

Whilst the present response by Participating National Societies, either through the appeal mechanism or bilaterally has already covered some of the relief items needed, there are outstanding gaps for which cash is urgently requested for local procurement, the water / sanitation programme, currently seen as one of the most critical areas in operational response, and for operational running expenses – including key local personnel as well as the deployment of support from the regional disaster response team.

**Current Situation :**

According to information released as of 9 May the current situation breakdown is as follows:

<b>County</b>	<b>No. Localities affected</b>	<b>No. persons evacuated</b>	<b>No. houses affected</b>	<b>No. Households affected</b>	<b>No. wells affected</b>
Alba	12	21	33	89	21
Arad	5	1		6	
Botosani	6			15	3
Bihor	2			31	8
Brasov	1				
Caras Severin	41		148	642	422
Calarasi	11	2480	446	513	21
Constanta	9	181	93	215	7
Dolj	27	8322	715	1835	433
Hunedoara	24			169	
Ialomita	5	15	10	38	
Iasi	6		3		113
Olt	3	4	4	45	
Mehedinti	8	30	47	151	128
Mures	1			20	
Neamt	6		2	1	
Salaj	7		30	174	73
Sibiu	7			29	
Suceava	2				
Teleorman	8		1		
Timis	6		323	370	580
Tulcea	19	778	147	733	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>11,832</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>5,076</b>	<b>1,831</b>

In addition to this information, the authorities report 47,539 hectares of arable land and 17,551 hectares of pasture have been inundated, as well as 209 bridges and 316 kms of national and local highways damaged.

Following the inundations the authorities, through the municipal leadership in conjunction with the Ministry of Interior Emergency Inspectorate, organised evacuations and the establishment of tented camps. There are currently ten camps in existence in Dolj and Calarasi counties. In Calarasi, five camps contain a total population of 1,123 people. There are two camps each respectively in Spantsov and Cisilet and one at Monastira. In Dolj the two

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camps at Rast contain approximately 2,000 people, whilst the camps at Negoi, Macesu de Sus and Goicea are thought to contain up to 150 persons each. In practice the number of persons in camps is extremely fluid as people move back and forth between the camps and their homes, thus hard figures are difficult to come by. In Rast it is said that families have come into the camps from surrounding villages, not strictly affected by flooding. However the camp authorities are making determined efforts to control the situation.

There are no official figures for the number of people who are accommodated in public buildings (principally schools), but it is not significant. It therefore follows that some 70 per cent of the displaced are privately accommodated. To date assessments have focused on the needs of people sheltered in the camps, rather than those accommodated privately.

Of special concern to the Romanian Red Cross is the situation in the Danube Delta area (Tulcea county) where there are currently nearly 800 people evacuated to open areas and river barges. The geography of the Delta, with its small scattered communities, makes the logistics of reaching the evacuated difficult. These areas are only accessible by boat. Since all the flood water coming down the Danube empties into the Black Sea at the Delta it could be expected that more displacement could occur in Tulcea.

There are ongoing precautionary evacuations, especially in Dolj and Calaras counties. In these areas some people have begun returning to their houses, however at Rast (Dolj county) the village of 4,000 inhabitants will have to be relocated to a new site, and it is apparent that long term provision will have to be made for the existing camps. The Government of Romania announced the allocation of USD 3 million for the provision of temporary housing in Dolj (470 units) and Calarasi (30 units) However the type of housing to be provided has to be decided as yet.

**Operational developments**

Initial response by the authorities, together with other agencies, in terms of provision of accommodation, non food items, food and emergency water seems to have been adequate in terms of stabilising the immediate emergency. The joint assessment team did not identify any areas where response has left significant gaps leaving the affected population immediately vulnerable. However, the team does have concerns regarding the provision of essential services to populations, which may suffer displacement in the medium to longer term. This especially relates to the camps at Rast and the affected in the Danube Delta, Tulcea County.

Mobilisation of resources by the authorities covering food, water, shelter and other emergency items has come from a variety of sources including from existing stocks held by the emergency inspectorate, private sector, individuals and humanitarian agencies including the Romanian Red Cross, World Vision International, Caritas, the Romanian Orthodox Church, Save the Children and others. Camp layout and provision of basic services, initially chaotic, now seems to be improving and beginning to approach international standards.

The authorities immediately carried out vaccination campaigns against Hepatitis. Basic clinic services in the camps are provided by the Ministry of Health but the quality and extent of care is not apparent. Referral services to hospitals are in place. However, the provision of health care to the Delta population is not known and is likely to be difficult given the logistical difficulties. This is of particular concern.

The authorities have organised the bussing of children to nearby schools in Rast, however this is not likely to be sustainable in the long term. Both UNICEF and Save the Children have plans to support the education sector.

The joint FACT/RDRT/RRC team has not identified any specific needs for tracing or RFL, nor are there any particular concerns, at this stage, regarding minority populations such as the Roma. In Rast, the Romanian and Roma population were mixed and the provision of services seems to be identical. The authorities are providing the population with pens to keep their animals in. However, the interagency coordination group in Bucharest has agreed to invite representatives from NGOs from minority groups to participate in the forum in order to be more inclusive.

**Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

**Objective 1: To provide humanitarian relief assistance to 13,000 evacuated people and severely affected persons, consisting of tents, blankets, tarpaulins, plastic sheeting, mattresses, jerry cans, rubber boots, sleeping bags, food and hygiene parcels.**

The Romanian Red Cross has carried out distributions of relief items since the beginning of the floods. Relief goods have been distributed from the central warehouse and the local warehouses of the RRC branches. The following table reflects the total amount of items that RRC has provided so far.

County	Dolj	Tulcea	Constanta	Calarasi	Caras-Severin	Mehedinti	Braila	Total
Blankets	926	120	200	2,000	200	138	15	3,599
Sleeping bags	307			300		15	5	627
Mattresses	1,565			500				2,065
Community tents	13							13
Family tents	113		5					118
Hygiene parcels	250	178	200				10	638
Bed linen	100				150	146	10	406
Plastic dishes	800				500			1,300
Jerry cans	100							100
Bulk food items		1,439						1,439
Tinned food		444						444
Boots	60	69	300					429
Oil		239						239
Disinfectant								
Children's shoes			100			90		190
Clothes			550					550
Food parcels					50			50
Diapers						100		100
Detergent			2,040					2,040

Additional distributions from 5-7 May, utilising the Turkish Red Crescent (TRCS) donation are as follows:

	Dolj:	Calarasi
<b>Blankets</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>Hygiene parcels</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>524</b>
<b>Bottled water (Litres)</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>7,200</b>

Distribution of the chlorine tabs also donated by TRCS is being worked out with the Ministry of Health.

Based on the assessments carried out by the joint FACT/RDRT/RRC teams, and with respect to coordination with the government, UN and other organisations, the activities of the RRC will be focused on four counties: Dolj, Calarasi, Constanta and Tulcea. The FACT/RDRT team and the RRC has finalised a revised distribution plan (downscaled from the preliminary appeal) as follows:

### Shelter

**Objective 1: To provide housing in tents for those evacuated people for an initial period of three months.**

A detailed distribution plan by branch is being worked on, and the quantities in this budget have been scaled down from previous plans. Notably the need for larger tents has been cut by half from the initial estimates. The initial request for folding tables and chairs has also been dropped since there is now no requirement for them as it seems that a lot of people are starting to return to their houses and the mass feeding is shifting to families cooking for themselves. The provision of most of the shelter items will take place during May, however six months distribution of hygiene and baby parcels is foreseen. A plan to keep a limited quantity of items for disaster

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preparedness (DP) stocks is also being worked on, and it is likely that some of these items could come from bilateral donations.

**Logistics:**

The RRC has limited logistics capacity at headquarters level. The current disaster manager also has a logistics role, and is working with just one other person in logistics - charged with the store keeping. Further briefing and training on Federation basic standards in terms of warehouse management are needed.

The RRC has six warehouses in the country. None of these is big enough to accommodate the response mobilized in terms of relief items, due to their modest size and the lack of trained store keepers. The NS will have to identify potential and easily accessible warehouse facilities in case of a major disaster response operation.

Due to the reasonable volume of items mobilized, the transport can be easily handled by the two Mercedes trucks and Ford Transit owned by the RRC.

A second Austrian Red Cross shipment consisting in 5,000 blankets ex-Bulgaria was received on 5 May but was refused due to cockroach infestation. Contacts were taken with the Austrian Red Cross and the necessary corrective steps taken. This consignment will be returned to the Bulgarian supplier who will supply new blankets.

Local procurements have now to be initiated and additional staff will be needed by the RRC to act as a counterpart to the FACT logistician and to oversee all procurement and dispatch.

**Pipeline and resource mobilisation:**

The situation regarding donations to date and outstanding needs is summarized as follows:

ITEM	Quantity	Swiss	Belgian	Austria	Turkey	Germany	Total	Outstanding	Comment
Family Tents	440	200	250				450	0	Covered
Big Tent 27sq. m	14		12				12	2	
Big Tent 35-40sq. m	7						0	7	
Big Tent 90 sq. m	7						0	7	
Blankets	3300			5000	2750		7750	0	Covered
Tapaulins 6*4	1650	500					500	1,150	
Plastic sheeting rolls	22						0	22	
Hygiene Parcels	17380				1024		1024	16,356	
Kitchen Sets Type A	385		500				500	0	Covered
Mattresses	440			1000		5000	6000	0	Covered
Rubber Boots	330			264			264	66	
Fishing Boots	330						0	330	
Plastic Basin	2000						0	2,000	
Jerricans rigid With Taps 20 L	2000						0	2,000	
Baby parcels	6600					2000	2000	4,600	
<b>Wat/San</b>	<b>Budget (CHF)</b>	<b>Cash Income</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>					

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<b>latrine</b>	43350	41800	British RC	1550	Covered by RRCS
<b>Chlorine</b>	18000			18000	
<b>Boreholes</b>	57600	57600	Local donor	0	Discussion with local donor ongoing
<b>Admin/ Support equipment</b>	55000			55000	
<b>personnel</b>	100000			100000	
<b>HP training</b>	56350	56350	Local donor	0	Discussion with local donor ongoing
<b>PSR</b>	22000			22000	
<b>Total Watsan</b>	352300	225750		126550	

Confirmed shipments received by RRC to date are as follows:

<b><i>In-kind</i></b>	
German Red Cross:	three rescue boats, positioned in Tulcea city
Austrian Red Cross	5,000 blankets, 898 mattresses, 264 pairs of rubber boots
Swiss Red Cross	200 family tents, 500 tarpaulins

At present the operation is covered for family tents, blankets, mattresses and kitchen sets. Cash contributions are sought to ensure local purchase of jerry cans amongst other items as well as to ensure that international/regional/local personnel costs are covered.

### **Water & Sanitation**

**Overall goal: Population of disaster affected areas of Romanian counties Dolj, Calarasi, Constanta and Tulcea have access to safe water and sanitation and is reached by hygiene promotion.**

#### **Objective 1: Prevent excess morbidity and mortality as a result of the disaster**

The WatSan delegate visited the flooded village of Rast and the camps in the area on 2-3 May. There is bottled drinking water for everyone, including people who have returned to the original site of the village of Rast. There is also water brought by trucks to the camps and the village, which is used for washing. In the flooded village, no food distribution is carried out. In the bigger camp, 670 persons are receiving relief aid; in the smaller camp some 300 persons receive assistance from the government.

The mobile latrines installed in the bigger camp are full and a system of emptying them is still lacking. The traditional pit latrines in the camp are functional.

An architect has been contracted by the authorities to draw a plan of the village to be built on the bigger camp site. Once the plan is presented to the local government, the RRC will also receive a copy. However, at the same time people are returning to the original site of Rast as the water level is going down. According to the local authorities the camps in Rast will not be dismantled for several months. One spraying campaign funded by World Vision has been carried out already, another one to be done.

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It was agreed with the authorities in Rast that in the first phase, a total of 60 latrines (pit hole and a construction on top of it) will be built for the people living in camps in Rast. The construction will be done in two phases and the cost for building one latrine is estimated at EURO 40. Setting up washing facilities (showers) was discussed and technical details and the timeframe will be further clarified.

**Human Resource Needs:**

The current RRC / FACT / RDRT mission has been extended to the end of May, to support the expected period of the emergency relief operation. The team is currently comprised of a FACT Team leader, a FACT logistician, a FACT water sanitation, one RDRT water / sanitation, one international administration delegate. The FACT information delegate finished her mission during the past week, as did two RDRT team members. Two RDRT relief / DM members are expected in the coming week.

*Outstanding needs*

A reporting delegate is urgently needed until the end of May. The Regional Delegation is looking to cover support needed in finance/ administration from regional resource (Federation offices/delegations). The deployment of a water / sanitation delegate for 6 months is currently under discussion with the Australian RC. A public health specialist is also urgently sought to carry out a health assessment and advise on long term health promotion needs.

**Federation Coordination**

The interagency co-ordination forum in Bucharest held its second meeting on 4 May, chaired by RRC at its national headquarters. An updated mapping exercise was completed and will be circulated early in week 19. A representative of the Ministry of Interior attended. It was agreed that specific sectoral working groups in health (including hygiene promotion), education and shelter would be established. The need to reinforce coordination with the national committee for emergencies within the Ministry of Interior was also noted, as was the desirability of including representatives from NGOs involved with minority groups. The next meeting on May 12 will be hosted by UNICEF.

**National Society Capacity Building**

The RRC capacity both at headquarters and branch level is limited. At present the focus is on filling the critical logistics and support staffing needs to ensure administration and coordination for the operation at headquarters level, to support branch staff and to work closely with the FACT and RDRT members.

**Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

The RRC public relations staff is responding to requests from the media in the country as well as internationally. A visit to the site of operations is planned during the coming week, together with journalists from Romania and abroad.

**See budget summary below.**

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Appeal No MDRRO001

**Romania Floods**

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>VALUE</b>
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>IN CHF</b>
Shelter & Construction	395,860
Clothing & Textiles	77,712
Water & Sanitation	75,600
Utensils & Tools	48,000
Other Relief Supplies (Hygiene and Baby Parcels)	1,030,000
<b><u>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</u></b>	<b><u>1,627,172</u></b>
<b><u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u></b>	
One Toyota Pick-up	30,000
Computers & Telecom, Office furniture	6,090
<b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>	
Programme Support (6,5 % of total)	134,359
<b><u>TRANSPORT &amp; STORAGE</u></b>	<b>25,300</b>
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>	
International & Regional & Local	179,750
Workshops & Training	25,500
<b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; GENERAL SERVICES</u></b>	
In-country travel	12,000
Information/printing material	10,800
Office rental & utilities	4,750
Communication	11,336
<b><u>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</u></b>	<b><u>439,885</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES</u></b>	<b><u>2,067,057</u></b>
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	0
<b><u>NET REQUEST</u></b>	<b><u>2,067,057</u></b>



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Map data sources: ESRI, DMIS, FACT, Reuters