

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
7 August 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 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 3; Period covered: 31 May to 31 July 2006; Appeal target: CHF 2,067,057 (USD 1,692,095 or EUR 1,314,375); Appeal coverage: 39.6%; ([click here to go directly to the Contributions List available on the website](#)).

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.
- Operations Update no.1 decreased the budget to CHF 2,067,057 on 10 May.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 168,930.

Operational Summary:

The operation continues in Romania with a focus on relief efforts – food parcel distribution to those still suffering from the effects of the spring flooding, many of whom are not able to return to their homes. Solutions to the long term shelter question are still under discussion in the municipalities, including the issue of where to rebuild communities at risk. In the meantime 3,261 people continue to live in tent camps and containers, reliant on external assistance for food, water and hygiene items. Funding has been slow to come in to the Emergency Appeal. However, as the needs are still huge, this Operations Update is requesting an extension of the operational timeframe by three months to 31 October 2006, in order to complete the food parcel distribution. The final report will also be completed by that date. Red Cross latrine and shower construction in the camps in Dolj and Calarasi counties are being finalized, and are expected to be completed in mid August. Materials have been prepared for a hygiene promotion campaign, which is expected to get under way once a local Romanian Red Cross coordinator has been recruited and the funding has been secured through local donations. Federation funding through this Emergency Appeal will concentrate on completing food parcel distribution by the end of October 2006. At the end of July, both the international water and sanitation delegate and the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) leader ended their missions in Romania. From 1 August the Romanian RC local staff will manage the operation, with continuing support through the regional delegation Budapest.

In addition to the DREF allocation, contributions to the appeal have been received from the American, British, Japanese, Liechtenstein, Monaco and Netherlands Red Cross Societies. In addition relief goods have been received by the Romanian Red Cross on a bilateral basis, and further deliveries are under discussion.

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>

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Background

In the wake of the flash flooding in July

Three months since the first floods began – linked to heavy downpours that also overflowed parts of the Danube river and collapsed part of the country's system of dykes – the rains have ceased and water in the affected areas has receded. The number of people displaced by floods and unable to return to their homes is now stable (3,261 instead of 11,271 at the end of June), with the majority living in Rast and Calarasi. Discussions are still continuing in the affected municipalities to find longer term shelter solutions for those affected. Some villages may be relocated, such as the village of Ostrov (Constanta county), Rast (Dolj county) and Chiselet (Calarasi county), as they are either situated in very high-risk areas or in crypt depressions filled with stagnant water that experts predict would remain for a few years.

The end of June brought further flooding to Suceava, Bistrita Nasaud and Maramures in the north of the country, Sibiu and Harghita in the centre (rain, heavy winds and hail storms) and Arges and Mehedinti in the south. According to information from the Ministry of Interior, some 303 houses and 1,940 households were affected, with 12.2 km of county roads, and 28.5 km of local roads damaged. A total of 27 municipalities were without electricity. Local authority and Ministry of Defence staff was deployed to assist the affected population. The RC

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branches in the affected counties assessed the situation in close contact with the local authorities and responded with their own stocks.

During the reporting period the Romanian RC was invited to attend a meeting of the National Committee for Emergency Situations for the first time. Under Romanian law, the Romanian RC is entrusted with a specific response task in case of a disaster, and for this reason has the right to attend such meetings. The director general of the Romanian RC took the opportunity to inform the members of the committee about the activities of the Romanian RC in the floods, as well as the coordination efforts of all humanitarian agencies through the interagency meetings.

Operational developments

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

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

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.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)



Distribution of food parcels to flood victims

The Romanian Red Cross (RRC) was quick to respond to the needs of the people displaced by floods through their 47 branches and sub-branches that are constantly present in the counties across Romania, distributing relief items from own disaster preparedness stock. Where local stocks are depleted, additional needs have been communicated to the Romanian Red Cross headquarters, which can mobilize stock from seven regional warehouses strategically located across the country. Other than the vehicles and staff mentioned above, the Romanian Red Cross has positioned three boats donated by the German Red Cross in Tulcea to facilitate relief distributions along the Danube delta.

To date combined Red Cross assistance, which includes items supported by the Romanian Red Cross itself, the Federation appeal and bilateral contributions, have successfully distributed the relief items to eight affected counties. These counties are Dolj, Tulcea, Constanta, Gorj, Calarasi, Caras-Severin, Mehedinti and Braila (please refer to [Annex A](#) for an updated table on relief distribution). The counties of Dolj, Tulcea, Constanta and Calarasi have received the most relief items as they are also the counties with the most number of affected persons.

At the end of July, it was decided to focus on food parcel distribution for the coming three months, with the balance of funds received through the emergency appeal. Due to some problems experienced with the first round of food parcel procurement during the first month of the operation (quality of food and packaging, heaviness of the parcel and difficulty for beneficiaries to carry away), and also to allow for more flexibility for different branches to decide on the content of the parcel, it was decided that procurement will take place at branch level. Parcels will be for 2-3 persons and therefore less heavy. The process will be monitored closely by the headquarters to ensure standards are maintained.

Shelter

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

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The general shelter situation in camps is satisfactory, with the government providing a combination of community and family tents as well as some containers for the affected population. The high temperatures are, however, a cause for concern, particularly for the elderly, to ensure access to adequate quantities of water and to keep inside temperatures to a minimum. Although the situation is currently stable, it has the potential to deteriorate with the onset of winter later in the year. For the time being, however, the RRC branches have verified that there are currently no additional tent needs.

By the beginning of July, a further 100 family tents had been distributed in Rast to people who received land for the reconstruction of their houses and who therefore decided to leave the camp.

Impact

Red Cross teams have reported that the tents are being used in the camps. In Rast of Dolj county for example, one of the camps is using predominantly Red Cross tents. In the 2005 flood operation, the Romanian Red Cross procured 140 containers using funds from local donors and is currently providing shelter to families in six counties who were affected last year. These containers are complete with heating and electricity and are expected to free up in August. The RRC hopes to transfer these containers for use by those displaced in 2006 for a longer period to fulfill their winterization needs. Beneficiaries from last year's floods have greatly appreciated the heating in these containers, which is not available in the government-provided ones.

Water and Sanitation

Objective 1: Population of the affected areas of Romanian counties Dolj, Calarasi, Constanta and Tulcea have access to safe water and sanitation and is reached by hygiene promotion, thereby preventing excess morbidity and mortality as a result of the disaster.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Technical expertise from the Federation continued to be channelled into this sector over the reporting period as the national society lacks capacity in this area. An RDRT member and Federation water and sanitation delegate have acted as catalysts for this project in order to move ahead. The focus has been on coordination of the installation of water and sanitation hardware (latrines and showers), as well as the development of hygiene promotion and training materials. The RDRT member with a wat/san profile ended his mission at the beginning of June, with follow up to hardware installation carried out by the RDRT team leader, together with the water/sanitation delegate and Romanian RC staff. The water/sanitation delegate completed his mission at the end of July.



Latrine construction in Rast camp in Dolj county

During the reporting period the construction of 52 latrines to SPHERE standards in Rast camp was completed, in close cooperation with the local community. The design of the latrines respects the local tradition and construction itself was carried out by craftsmen from the local community, with the Red Cross providing building materials. It is expected that the local people will move the latrines from the camp once they relocate to the land set aside for the reconstruction of the village. The construction of showers has now begun, with a target of 20 showers.

The project is being replicated in Calarasi, where four latrines have been constructed so far, and a further 16 are expected to be completed by mid August.

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Based on the results of the health assessment conducted by a combined Romanian Red Cross and Federation team, the operation includes a hygiene promotion component in selected counties in cooperation with RRC headquarters/branch staff and volunteers. During the reporting period the concept was developed, together with the Romanian RC, and the plan of action finalized. Campaign materials, including simple messages of basic safe hygiene, have been designed and are to be printed. The materials have been compiled with the support of the communications and PR officer of the Romanian RC, together with staff members of the Disaster Management Department. During the interagency coordination meeting hosted by the Romanian RC in June, the other participating NGOs were invited to contribute their expertise to the design of the campaign materials. The campaign message will be disseminated quickly through public presentations, information materials and posters. In order to build longer term capacity of local communities, the PHAST training manual is ready to be translated into Romanian, to support the planned training of trainers, a training course which will be cascaded down from branch to community level.

Impact

The new latrines successfully address questions of sustainability. The project fulfilled a need expressed by the local municipality and community, with the work entrusted to a village foreman and the Red Cross only funding the materials. These latrines are built to be easily reassembled and disassembled, and it is expected that the community will take the structures with them when they relocate to their new land.

Prior to the construction, the water and sanitation team surveyed the pit latrines in the area and ensured the Red Cross designs were exacting and appropriate to local use, without being overly complicated and therefore inexpensive to build or maintain. Consequently, it is reported that the newly built latrines have been regularly used by the local community, who are satisfied with the design and are maintaining them regularly.

Constraints

Problems were faced during July to ensure that progress was being made on construction of the latrines and showers in Rast, Dolj county in the absence of the capacity for daily monitoring on the site by Red Cross persons. The carpenter involved in latrine construction in Calarasi county fell ill which led to delays in the implementation. The process has been monitored by the RDRT members and the water and sanitation delegate. The Romanian RC has limited capacity within the disaster management department to oversee any further construction. It is expected, however, that remaining work will be completed by mid August.

The Romanian RC is seeking to recruit a coordinator for the hygiene promotion campaign, in order to take the campaign a step further: to organize PHAST training of trainers, and then to cascade the training down to community level and ensure that the safe hygiene messages are being disseminated in the target communities. Once the coordinator is in place, and funding has been secured, the project should begin in early autumn. At present a funding proposal for this project has been submitted to a major local donor.

Federation Coordination

Over the reporting period, the Federation has continued to provide support to the Romanian RC through the deployment of Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members, together with an international water and sanitation delegate. The RDRT members with relief and water and sanitation profiles finished their missions at the beginning of July, with the RDRT team leader and wat/san delegate finishing at the end of July. The Romanian RC will continue the operation with the support of the Regional Delegation in Budapest, and no further RDRT missions are envisaged. Support to produce the final report (both narrative and financial) may be requested by the national society. If the situation changes dramatically – possibly with further flooding – then the support of RDRT may be called on for operations.

The Romanian Red Cross has continued to play a key role in initiating the now bi monthly interagency meetings held in Bucharest, organized till now by the RRC which assist in sharing information and coordinating humanitarian assistance in the affected areas. Various agencies including Caritas, IOCC, Save the Children UNICEF, USAID, UNDP, CHF, Romani CRISS, and World Vision are present in the country together with the Red Cross, delivering humanitarian assistance to the flood affected. These meetings help agencies plan their assistance better to avoid duplication, as well as serve as a platform for information sharing. All agencies are facing funding issues due to the low visibility of the disaster in the public sphere and have had to narrow their scope of assistance. These meetings have also been attended after the emergency phase by representatives of the

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Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Administration and Interior and the National Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.

National Society Capacity Building

Capacities at the Romanian Red Cross headquarters and branch level remain limited, with each staff performing a variety of duties related to different sectors. Filling the DM coordinator position has become crucial, following the departure of the previous DM coordinator in mid June. A part time logistician is providing much needed support to the ongoing food parcel distribution element of the operation. A number of other key positions are open including hygiene promotion coordinator, OD, and administration. Representatives of the regional delegation have been supporting in the recruitment processes – in screening potential candidates, and assisting in interviews. Technical expertise and field methods are being shared, where possible, with national society staff and volunteers.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Romanian Red Cross staff is continuing with its communication initiatives, including press releases, interviews and field visits. The PR officer has been closely involved with the development of materials for the hygiene promotion information campaign to ensure relevant and simple messages and dissemination methods that correspond to local habits.

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

Items	Dolj			Tulcea			Constanta			Gorj			Calarasi			Caras-Severin			Mehedinti			Braila			Total	
	RRC	Appeal	Bilateral	RRC	Appeal	Bilateral	RRC	Appeal	Bilateral	RRC	Appeal	Bilateral	RRC	Appeal	Bilateral	RRC	Appeal	Bilateral	RRC	Appeal	Bilateral	RRC	Appeal	Bilateral		
Food (kg)				1,439																					1,439	
Mineral water (1,5ltrs)			TRCS 1,400							500				TRCS 7,240												9,140
Jerry cans	100																									100
Rubber boots	60							300																		429
Canned food																										444
Big Tents	13																									13
Family Tents	113	200				30				3																351
Detergent (150g)																										2,640
Desinfectant (bottles)			TRCS 12			600																				134
Tarpaulins (6x9m)		200				76								TRCS 12												450
Clothes M/F (sets)	150					250																				1,250
Bed linen	100					150																				486
Food parcels						678																				1,528
Hygiene parcels	710	4,950	TRCS 500			200							300													8,272
Baby parcels	50	300				250				250				TRCS 524												1,150
Children shoes						100																				190
Blankets	1,046		TRCS 2,000			100																				6,549
Sleeping bags	360					280							2,000	TRCS 750												780
Mattresses	1,565					20							300													2,200
Kitchen sets	800	100				80				55																1,450
Sun Flower oil						50																				239
Plastic basins						239																				300
Total (in RON)	330,307			121,844			62,734			30,432			136,460			11,946			17,217			710			711,650	

TRCS-Turkish Red Crescent Society

52 latrines built in Rast, Dolj county; 4 latrines built in Calarsi and 16 under construction (construction material provided by the RRC; construction material provided in Rast, Dolj county for building of 10 showers

RON- Romania New Lei