



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

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA: FLOODS

13 December, 2002

Information Bulletin N° 1

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 45,000

This Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below. A DREF allocation of CHF 45,000 has been released to provide immediate assistance and restock emergency supplies. The Federation does not at this stage, anticipate further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the quarterly DREF update.

The Situation

Heavy rains hit Macedonia starting late on December 4, 2002, causing the Vardar river to reach a critical level. The most affected areas are located in northern Skopje, especially Suto Orizari, which is home to around 500 families (mostly Romas and Albanians). On 6, 7, and 8 December the Macedonian Red Cross' (MRC) disaster preparedness team made



three assessments in the most affected areas. Approximately 500 families were found living in low and fragile flooded houses. Some 50 houses were totally destroyed, and 50 families had to be relocated. The level of the water in the houses is 60-100 cm (see photo). The preliminary results of the assessment indicates that 200 (out of the total of 500) families have been severely affected. The water levels have now stabilised or are receding, but freezing temperatures and snow is making the situation worse.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy has pledged to provide support to these people. On the basis of data collected, needs were identified for food and non-food items such as hygiene and baby parcels, blankets, and mattresses. Emergency shelter in the form of tents is not necessary as families are being accommodated in nearby households.



Suto Orizari on 6 December

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The MRC, assisted by its volunteers, has responded quickly and efficiently to the disaster by distributing the following food or non-food items from their own contingency stocks or available Federation and/or ICRC supplies:

- 895 mattresses.
- 3,580 blankets.
- 570 food parcels.

- 1,290 hygien parcels.

However, stocks are now depleted, and given the winter season and temperatures it is critical that the MRC can reconstitute these stocks in order to be prepared for future potential emergencies (snowfalls). The DREF allocation is intended to achieve the restocking of warehouses.

The prompt Red Cross action has been very appreciated by the local population who expressed their gratitude to the Red Cross. The MRC action was well covered by the media. The proposed DREF allocation will be used to procure the following: 2,000 food parcels, 1,000 blankets, 800 mattresses.

Please also refer to the **Federation's DMIS** for further information DMIS@ifrc.org.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org



For further details please contact:

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Relief distribution 7 December

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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

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