

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

25 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

This Bulletin (no. 2/July 2005) reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation may communicate further on additional cooperation with Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC) in respect to this ongoing disaster. Partners interesting in supporting the BRC are urged to contact the Geneva regional officer (see below).

For the previous information bulletin [<click here>](#)

For other operational reports related to floods throughout Central Europe [<click here>](#)

Please contact:

- In Bulgaria: Bulgarian Red Cross, Jassen Slivensky, Disaster Management Coordinator, email: j.slivensky@redcross.bg, phone: +359 281 64898
- In Regional Delegation: Slobodanka Curic, Regional Disaster Management Coordinator, email: ifrchu41@ifrc.org, phone: +387 65 665 747,
- In Geneva: Erja Reinikainen, Regional Officer, Europe Department, Phone: +41 22 730 43 19, Fax: +41 22 733 03 95, Email: Erja.Reinikainen@ifrc.org

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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 to wreak havoc 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.

The public infrastructure in a number of places 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.

The situation has been the most serious in the regions of Targovishte, Veliko Tirnovo, 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, 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 12 July, 161 houses had collapsed and 110 were uninhabitable, according to the State Agency for Civil Protection.

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 RC central level (NHQ) 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

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 NHQ to the Bulgarian Red Cross local branches
- organize distribution to the beneficiaries locally
- prepare system of data reporting, according to the BRC system and IFRC requirements and monitoring of distribution

Progress/Achievements

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 BRC has deployed relief distribution from its logistics centres – Lozen Central Warehouse and Pirgovo (Russe) and Dobrich inter-regional disaster warehouses.

Rousse branch (BRC)

Bed linen, mattresses, shoes, clothes and blankets 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 BRC Rousse has also been involved in the relief operation, providing assistance to the most affected population. By 20 July, BRC Rousse had provided 470 blankets, 306 bed linen set, 38 bales clothes, and 20 beds/ camping type.

Targovishte branch (BRC)

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 BRC 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.

Shoumen branch (BRC)

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 BRC 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 RC purchased food items for the most affected people.

Other BRC branches

The National Society headquarters has received requests for assistance from Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Veliko Tarnovo, Pazarjik, Burgas, Silistra regions, etc.

By 20 July the BRC had distributed from its reserves the following items:

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

The objective is to distribute the relief items to the above mentioned beneficiaries over one month, depending on funding.

Impact

Through the RC 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 RC branches in the affected regions. Additional support was provided from the Central warehouse of BRC Lozen: canned food, pasta, and disinfectants. This response has assisted the most vulnerable in coping with the immediate situation.

BRC regional teams have assessed their own regions and collected data on needs and scale of the floods. BRC NHQ has summarized the data and has coordinated the operation throughout the country. Assessment team members from NHQ have visited Targovishte, Bourgas, Pazardjik and Plovdiv regions and have provided support to BRC 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 BRC operation is in coordination with the Federation through contacts with the regional disaster management coordinator of the Federation's regional delegation in Budapest.

Upon an earlier request made by the Bulgarian Red Cross, the International Federation has allocated EUR 55,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for basic relief items to assist for 5,000 people - 1,250 families for one month. The relief involves kitchen sets, hygiene parcels, disinfectants, blankets- 700 pc, bedlinen-700 pc. in nine regions. The goods have been procured locally. The Bulgarian Red Cross has distributed blankets, bed linen and hygienic parcels to the affected population. Kitchen sets will be distributed by the end of July.

Partner NS support to BRC operation:

The Spanish Red Cross has donated EUR 18,000 for water pumps and generators. The US Government - through USAID and the American RC 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 BRC operation. The Austrian Red Cross has announced a possible donation of EUR 2,500 for rubber boots and the Luxembourg RC has also expressed an interest to support the BRC operation.

National Society Capacity

The BRC'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 BRC'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 distributed from BRC 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 BRC 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 BRC operation is publicized on the BRC web page: <http://www.redcross.bg>.

Budget Outline

BRC Floods relief operation Budget

Budget line	Qty	Unit price (BGN, VAT included)	Total BGN	Total EUR	Total CHF
Relief item					
Blankets	5000	7,00	35 000,00	€ 17 500,00	CHF 28 000,00
Bedding sets	2000	15,00	30 000,00	€ 15 000,00	CHF 24 000,00
Pillows	1000	4,50	4 500,00	€ 2 250,00	CHF 3 600,00
Mattresses (75x190 cm)	1000	30,00	30 000,00	€ 15 000,00	CHF 24 000,00
Rubber boots Fisherman type	200	88,00	17 600,00	€ 8 800,00	CHF 14 080,00
Rubber boots	1500	10,00	15 000,00	€ 7 500,00	CHF 12 000,00
Food parcels	2400	16,00	38 400,00	€ 19 200,00	CHF 30 720,00
Torches	1000	5,00	5 000,00	€ 2 500,00	CHF 4 000,00
Hygiene parcel (family 1 month)	2400	20,00	48 000,00	€ 24 000,00	CHF 38 400,00
Sleeping bags	500	30,00	15 000,00	€ 7 500,00	CHF 12 000,00
			BGN 223 500,00	€ 111 750,00	CHF 178 800,00
Operational costs					
Transport and warehousing			5 772,00 ??	€ 2 886,00	CHF 4 617,60
Local distribution			3 635,00 ??	€ 1 817,50	CHF 2 908,00
Monitoring, staff, communication and coordination			14 527,50 ??	€ 7 263,75	CHF 11 622,00
			23 934,50 ??	€ 11 967,25	CHF 19 147,60
Administrative costs					
			16 083,24 ??	€ 8 041,62	CHF 12 866,59
Total budget			263 517,74 ??	€ 131 758,87	CHF 210 814,19

Note: As BRC 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.