

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

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO: FLOODS/LANDSLIDES

Information Bulletin
no. 2/2006
14 April 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 183 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve 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>

The Situation

Due to the heavy rain, flooding and uncontrolled deforestation in the last several years, landslides occurred on the territory of several municipalities in Serbia in the last few weeks. At the moment, 19 municipalities all over Serbia plus two municipalities in Belgrade are affected to different extent by floods and landslides.



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The most serious situation is still in village Bogdanje in the municipality of Trstenik. Around 130 houses are damaged, with more than 200 citizens already evacuated and accommodated with the relatives at the moment, mostly in the city of Trstenik. The representatives of the Government of Serbia visited the region and the Prime Minister, Mr. Kostunica, promised that all families whose houses were affected by these landslides would get the new houses. Indeed, the building of the first 20 houses started on the 27th of March. The government prepared additional 195 Million dinars (approximately CHF 350,000) for assistance in counter-floods measures.

So far, the state of emergency has been proclaimed in five municipalities: Loznica, Beocin, Zabalj, Titel and Zrenjanin. In the municipality of Koceljeva, as a consequence of 95 landslides, around 67 houses are damaged and 6 of them are completely destroyed. In Ljig municipality, 150 landslides were reported in the last couple of days. More than 60 local roads are cut.

The landslides occurred in the municipality of Osecina. Fifty households are flooded and another thirty households in danger, including the Red Cross building.

The level of the river Jadar has reached its maximum, so the state of emergency has been proclaimed in Loznica municipality. The underground water has flooded twenty houses, the evacuation of the cattle has started.

The problem with underground waters is high in Banat and Vojvodina. The most vulnerable is Secanj municipality. 1,082 houses in five villages are in danger and prepared for evacuation.

The water level of several rivers in Serbia remains high. In the municipality of Prijepolje, there are around 70 houses flooded, due to the rising of underground water and mountain springs. In the municipality of Novi Pazar, more than 300 houses are flooded at the moment and three bridges damaged. The flooding in other municipalities is mostly affecting the agricultural soil. This situation will definitely influence the crops.

Since the beginning of April, the water level of several rivers in Serbia has been on constant rise. On the 13th of April, the water in the river Danube reached the highest level ever recorded: 760 cm. This means that the northern parts of Serbia, in Vojvodina region, are now endangered.

The most serious situation is in municipalities of Beocin and Slankamen where up to 100 families have been evacuated so far, with water flooding some of the fields, some of the houses and, notably, the hospital in Slankamen. The situation is also critical in the village Mosorin, in the municipality of Titel where the river Tisa is threatening 3,800 inhabitants. The second ring of defence system has just been established but the evacuation has already been initiated, starting with cattle. In the municipality of Zrenjanin, at least two villages are also in danger.

In Belgrade, the capitol town, the municipality of Cukarica has suffered flooding from the river Sava. About 1,000 people are being ready to be evacuated and accommodated in temporary shelters (five schools). The evacuation from the most critical spot (Ada Ciganlija) started in the night between 13th and 14th of April. At the same time, the municipality of Zemun was also affected by floods caused by the river Danube. Thirty families were evacuated and are residing in private accommodation.

The Danube is also endangering municipalities downstream from Belgrade. In Smederevo, Veliko Gradiste and Pozarevac there is 24 hour work on reinforcing the existing dike system. 370 houses in the municipality of Pozarevac have been flooded. In addition, two hundred houses in the municipality of Smederevo have been flooded and thirty families have been evacuated, now residing in private accommodation. Additional 19 people have been evacuated and accommodated in the Red Cross Home in Mala Krsna.



Floods occurred in several municipalities of Serbia has affected the daily life of the population

The area in northern Banat that suffered heavy floods in 2005 is again potentially endangered with the level of the river Tamis rising and the flood wave expecting to arrive from Romania on the 15th and 16th of April. The predictions are that last year's water level of 884 mm could be reached and even surpassed. In the time being, the government is monitoring the quality of drinking water.

The water level in most of the rivers is still on the rise with the maximum level expected around the 19th of April. The website of the Hydro-Meteorological institute of Serbia has all the latest information regarding the water and floods¹.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The national society is actively monitoring the situation. The Red Cross participates in the work of the municipal crisis headquarters in all affected areas. The municipal and republic teams of the Red Cross have assessed the needs and some assistance has already been delivered. The following table gives a breakdown of the distributed goods by the 3rd of April:

Municipality	No. of Families	Food parcel (to be delivered)	Family hygiene parcel	Baby hygiene parcel	Blanket	Mattress	Rubber boots	Water tank	Children's clothes	Drier
								1000 litres		
Koceljeva	35	-	35	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Ljig	50	50	50	5	18	18	18	-	150	-
Osecina	20	20	20	5	-	-	-	-	150	1
Loznica	100	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kragujevac	100	100	100	10	-	100	30	-	300	-
Kraljevo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹ For further details, please go to the website of the Hydro-Meteorological institute of Serbia at http://www.hidmet.sr.gov.yu/eng/hidrologija/izvestajne/prognoza.php?hm_id=42045

Novi Pazar	300	30	100	5	300	100	50	-	-	-
Trstenik	131	30	210	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Krusevac		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sabac	1667	100	100	150	300	300	300	-	750	
Brus	50	50	50	15	200	200	100	-	150	-
Prijepolje	120	120	120	20	120	-	50	-	300	-
Gornji Milanovac	30	30	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cacak	50	50	51	15	200	200	100	-	-	-
Valjevo	30	30	30	24	40	30	30	-	-	-
Paracin	20	20	20	4	-	-	-	-	150	-
Svilajnac	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secanj	1081	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obrenovac	136	30	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3920	660	1006	253	1178	948	678	6	1950	1

In addition, 60 mattresses, 60 blankets and 60 hygiene parcels were delivered in Zemun for 30 evacuated families (residing in private accommodation) and 100 pieces each of blankets, mattresses and hygiene parcels has been delivered to the evacuated in the municipality of Cukarica. Pozarevac branch distributed 450 mattresses and blankets as well as 250 pairs of rubber boots, whereas the Smederevo branch distributed 450 mattresses and blankets as well as 100 pairs of rubber boots. Also, the hospital in Slankamen received 300 adult diapers, 100 bed linen sets and 200 mattresses.

On 12 and 13 April, the assessment team from the Red Cross of Serbia, together with the Federation Disaster Management officer, visited several of the affected municipalities and had a series of meetings with local Red Cross branch secretaries and people from the local crisis headquarters. The subject of the meetings was the evacuation plans in case of disaster and possible Red Cross assistance to the vulnerable people. As a result of the meeting, the Red Cross of Serbia headquarters has done the pre-positioning of relief items in some of the visited municipalities. So far 1,000 hygiene parcels and 600 rubber boots have been delivered to the Novi Sad regional warehouse, ready for distribution to villages in Titel and Zrenjanin municipalities.

Disaster response unit of Novi Sad branch assisted with the reinforcement of dike system at critical points around the city. In Pozarevac, the Red Cross branch is preparing one hot meal per day for evacuated 100 people. In Belgrade, disaster response units of two branches, Cukarica and Palilula (40 volunteers in total), are active in facilitating shelters for the evacuated people from Ada Ciganlija.

The Federation delegation in Belgrade has been granted use of funds, totalling to CHF 128,000, from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), following the request for assistance from the Red Cross of Serbia. The use of funds has been approved on the 12th of April and so far the delegation has procured 1,300 rubber boots and 1,200 hygiene parcels. Tender for 1,200 food parcels, 500 baby parcels, 7,000 litres of disinfectant, 300 adult diapers, 10 collective centres' hygiene sets, 100 blankets and 800 mattresses is currently underway with the goods to arrive in the next several days.

Due to the alarming situation all over Serbia with possible massive flooding and likely more evacuation the Federation delegation in Belgrade, through the Regional Delegation in Budapest, inquired for the stock levels in the neighbouring national societies and their readiness to assist in case of the worst.

The Federation delegation in Belgrade is considering the possibility of requesting additional DREF funds if the situation deteriorates and the needs increase. The assessment of the Red Cross of Serbia gives the potential figure of 7,165 families in total, affected by both landslides and floods in 30 municipalities.

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