

FINAL REPORT



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. 05EA009
24 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 over 185 countries.

In Brief

Final Report; Period covered: 29 April 2005 to 31 May 2006; Final appeal coverage: 59%.
[<click here to link directly to the attached Final Financial Report>](#).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 29 April 2005 for CHF 1,055,000 (USD 884,985 or EUR 684,735) for 6 months to assist 4,500 beneficiaries.
- The operation was extended by 7 months to 31 May 2006; Final Report is therefore due on 31 August 2006.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 192,378 - including two DREF allocations of CHF 160,428 (USD 134,590 or EUR 104,140) allocated in April 2005 and CHF 31,950 (USD 25,945 or EUR 20,230) allocated in September 2005.

Summary

This Emergency Appeal was launched following the initial wave of flooding to hit Romania in April 2005. In July 2005, an Operations Update no. 3 informed contributors to this appeal of the necessity of widening the geographical coverage of the operation from the two counties hit by flooding in April to encompass the much wider and national scope of the disaster. The type and quantity of relief items was also revised, following the continuing needs assessment carried out by the Romanian Red Cross in the field. As the waves of flooding continued into September, hitting some counties for the second or third time, the clean up and drying out phases continued. Communities prepared for an exceedingly hard winter with basic household food stores destroyed, and the hopes for autumnal harvests dashed by the continued waves of flooding. The operational timeframe was extended in December 2005, to 31 May 2006, in order to assist recovering communities with seeds for the spring 2006. However flooding again hit Romania in the spring 2006, making it impossible to plant seeds. Further food relief was distributed to victims of the 2005 disaster, who were again unable to assure their own basic food needs. Activities within the Emergency Appeal 05EA009 were completed by 31 May 2006.

A new Emergency Appeal was launched in April 2006 to bring assistance to the victims of the 2006 spring flooding, principally in the south and east of the country. A joint Romanian Red Cross/Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) was deployed in April 2006 to support the Romanian Red Cross with relief, water and sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In Romania: Romanian Red Cross, Mihaela Steriu, General Director of National Society of Romanian Red Cross, phone: +40 21 317 40 52, Fax: + 40 21 312 84 52, email: dg@crucearosie.ro;*
- *In Central Europe: Regional Delegation, Slobodanka Curic, Regional Disaster Management Coordinator, phone: + 387 59 260 383, mobile: + 387 65 665 747, email: slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org*
- *In Geneva: Secretariat, Erja Reinikainen, Regional Officer, Europe Department, phone: + 41 22 730 49 20, fax: +41 22 733 03 95, email: erja.reinikainen@ifrc.org*

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 and Summary

Many houses were devastated in the flooding

With the country still recovering from previous major waves of flooding in April and July, heavy rains between 18 and 26 September caused a sixth wave of floods and further destruction in 16 counties of Romania – with Constanta, Ialomita and Ilfov amongst the most severely affected according to official statistics. The country had effectively been coping with a continuous emergency situation for a total of six months by the end of September 2005.

In the last wave of flooding to hit the country, 16 counties in the south east and east of Romania were affected. Most of these counties were still recovering from previous waves of flooding. Some 340 localities were affected with 6 isolated, over 1,000 people were evacuated, six people were reported dead and three missing, 25 villages were isolated affecting over 300 households. More than 3,500 homes were

affected, as well as 42,079 hectares of agricultural land, 5,094 hectares of pastures and 2,490 hectares of forests. The infrastructure was once again heavily hit, 192 bridges, 271 small bridges, 19 national, 88 country and 201 village roads were affected. The floods also took out of use 4,227 wells and 4 water supply networks and broke 9 power lines leaving 5 localities without electricity. A significant number of birds and animals (3,942) were also

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killed, increasing the health hazards already posed by the lack of clean water. This sixth wave of flooding also hit the capital – Bucharest – flooding houses, basements, streets and tunnels in three sectors.

As the country prepared for a long and cold winter, many communities were still dealing with the aftermath of the floods including the drying out process, the replacing of basic furniture and household items, in the knowledge that normal food stocks stored in the basement had been destroyed together with harvests, and part of the annual planting season had been missed. This situation continued in the spring, when plans to plant for the new season disappeared in further flooding which hit the south and southeast of the country.

The plan of action for this Emergency Appeal had to be constantly revised to take into account the successive waves of flooding, the larger affected area and the latest information emerging from continuing needs assessment conducted by the Romanian Red Cross. The revised plan also took into account the known and/or expected responses from donors either through the International Federation Emergency Appeal process or on a bilateral basis. The Austrian, Belgian, Danish, German, Hungarian, and Swiss Red Cross organized bilateral relief assistance, covering a portion of the needs. The overall budget for the Emergency Appeal was not reduced, although it was clear that the target would not be met through cash and in-kind donations received through the Federation channel. Although the Appeal framework remained intact, changes were made to the type and quantity of relief items sought, as well as to the area covered. The appeal was originally launched to cover relief distributed in Timis and Caras Severin counties. The area of actual coverage was widened to encompass 31 out of 48 counties in Romania.

Coordination

The Romanian Red Cross (RRC) is the only humanitarian organization, which is included in the national system for protection of the population in case of natural and technological disasters in time of peace and war. The Romanian Red Cross works in close co-operation and interaction with the Ministry of Defence, State Agency for Civil Protection, Ministry of Administration and Interior, governmental institutions, local authorities and other partners in disaster response.

The overall coordination of the RRC operation was undertaken by the RRC Crisis Management Team, which was convened and met regularly to process information from various sources, including from the RRC branches, to assess the situation and to take decisions. As a result:

- RRC delivered immediately emergency aid to affected people from its own disaster reserves;
- RRC launched an Emergency Appeal through the International Federation appeal mechanism;
- The Regional Delegation of the International Federation in Budapest released immediately funds from DREF to continue the operation;
- RRC used several cash and in-kind donations received from partner National Societies;
- RRC opened special bank accounts for floods victims and launched a national appeal to the population.

Regular briefings and press conferences were held to inform the general public and increase the transparency of the operation. Information about the operation was published on the RRC web page.

Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements, impact

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items):

Objective 1: To provide humanitarian assistance to 4,500 evacuated people and severely affected persons, consisting of food parcels, blankets, sleeping bags, rubber boots, underwear, T-shirts, bed linen, plastic sheeting, hygienic parcels, jerry cans and tents.

Objective 2: To promote activities of the Red Cross and strengthen the Romanian Red Cross image

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Water and Sanitation:

Objective: To provide potable water for 10,000 people in the affected areas for 2 months

Shelter:

Objective: To provide housing in tents for 500 evacuated people for 2 months

Objective 1 - Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items):

Objective one, emergency relief assistance, remained the primary objective under the Emergency Appeal. For over a nine month period, the Romanian Red Cross deployed all disaster intervention means at its disposal: human resources, relief materials, cash, field kitchens, water purification units, motor-pumps and tents. Through its branches, assistance was provided to more than 30,000 beneficiaries in all 31 flood-affected counties. From April 2005 until May 2006, all disaster intervention teams were mobilized, with more than 900 volunteers participating in emergency interventions and humanitarian relief distribution.

As contributions arrived to the Appeal Romania was hit by two more major waves of floods that affected several counties, mostly in the southern and eastern parts of the country. The situation demanded an emergency response and quick relief item deployment in various remote areas of the country, while most of the roads were severely damaged by the floods.

The disaster response of the Romanian Red Cross was stretched to the limit. Under these circumstances the intervention in Timis was no longer a priority, as basic needs had been mostly covered and the situation was already under control. However the procurement procedures for the relief items to be purchased within this programme started immediately.

The plan of action was revised to take into account the continuing flooding, the larger affected area, the latest needs assessment as well as the funding available through the appeal. The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocations to the appeal were used as per the original plan. In December 2005, the initial plans were revised and the operational timeframe was extended to 31 May 2006.

Relief Distribution:

Initial relief distribution in Timis and Caras Severin counties took place according to the plan of action and was covered by the initial DREF allocation of CHF 160,428.



Getting relief items to the beneficiaries

Relief Item	Quantity
Plastic sheeting	600 m2
Blankets	1,750
Bed linen, pillow cases	1,000
Rubber boots	1,000
Underwear, T-shirts	1,000
Jerry cans	1,500
Hygienic kits	4,500

Food parcels Distribution:

#	Affected County	Beneficiaries		Food parcels sent	Date
		Persons	Families		
TOTAL		12,813	3,523	4,450	
1	Arges	410	106	182	5 December 2005
2	Braila	177	64	128	18 November 2005
3	Galati	600	142	284	25 November 2005
4	Giurgiu	1,022	334	668	29 November 2005
5	Ialomita	1,791	465	930	18, 25 November 2005
6	Olt	491	128	256	22 November 2005
7	Prahova	800	340	680	2 December 2005
8	Teleorman	482	184	368	22 November 2005
9	Vrancea	7,040	1,760	954	15 November 2005

A further phase of food parcel relief distribution went ahead at the beginning of 2006, with the objective to provide food parcels to 360 families in six counties where temporary shelter containers were located (Arges, Bacau, Galati, Ialomita, Teleorman and Vrancea) over a five month period. The plan was revised based on needs, to increase the number of beneficiaries and to decrease the period of distribution from five to three months. A total of 1,963 food parcels were purchased and distributed according to the table below:

RRC Branch	Delivery Date	Quantity
Arges	16 February 2006	98
	16 March 2006	98
	12 April 2006	98
Bacau	15 February 2006	117
	13 March 2006	117
	6 April 2006	117
Galati	15 February 2006	84
	13 March 2006	84
	6 April 2006	84
Ialomita	17 February 2006	23
	17 March 2006	23
	11 April 2006	24
Teleorman	14 February 2006	94
	16 March 2006	94
	12 April 2006	94
Vrancea	20 February 2006	238
	9 March 2006	238
	4 April 2006	238
Total		1,963



Giving out loaves of bread to villagers

Revised plans to implement a seeds programme in spring 2006 were abruptly disrupted by further flooding in March/April 2006. It was impossible to plant new crops, and on the basis of further assessments, it was agreed to distribute 1,474 food parcels in the counties of Caras Severin, Mehedinti, Constanta and Tulcea.

County		April	May	June*
Constanta	Quantity	200	200	174
Caras Severin	Quantity		150	150
Mehedinti	Quantity		150	150
Tulcea	Quantity		300	
TOTAL	1,474			

* micro distribution was carried out by 5 June, procurement carried out within the operational timeframe to 31 May 2006

Objective 2 - Water and Sanitation:

The Romanian Red Cross branches assisted in the distribution of bottled water at the beginning of the emergency phase, received as donations from local companies. However, municipalities took over the provision of potable water in the further stages of the operation. The Romanian RC focused on other relief distribution.



Huge containers were used to accommodate around 600 people

Objective 3 - Shelter:

Due to a lack of funding within the emergency appeal and due to local donor interest, this objective was met outside of the Emergency Appeal.

A large local donor - Petrom company - donated 750,000 Euro to the Romanian Red Cross for the victims of the floods. In addition, Petrom accepted to contribute to the operational capacity building of the Romanian RC in case of emergency. As many of those affected no longer had suitable living conditions for the winter months – houses were not repaired or completely destroyed – the Romanian Red Cross used the Petrom donation to acquire 140 containers, and put those containers at the disposal of the affected people which fulfilled the Appeal criteria. A second donor – Alpha Bank – contributed funds for the purchase of eight of the total of 140 containers bought.

More than 600 people were accommodated in the containers, deployed at the beginning of December 2005 in 20 of the most affected locations (in Arges, Bacau, Galati, Vrancea, Teleorman and Ialomita counties). All 600 individuals accommodated also received monthly food and hygienic parcels until mid 2006. Basic household items were also distributed, including bed linen, blankets, pillows, heaters, mattresses, chairs, tables, food parcels, and hygienic parcels.

Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT)

The Romanian Red Cross was supported in its continuing needs assessment efforts and logistical capacity building by members of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT), who were deployed to Romania on four linked missions. In this way the National Societies of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia & Montenegro contributed through their personnel, expertise and knowledge to the operation in Romania. The members of the RDRT worked closely with their Romanian RC colleagues to develop procedures and systems for procurement and distribution of relief items. In addition the RDRT mission, together with the regional DM coordinator, organized a logistics workshop for the branches, some of whom had not previously been involved in an emergency operation of this scale.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives



Inside the accommodation provided by Romanian Red Cross

The Romanian Red Cross has been undergoing a planned change process over the past two years, with an organisational development programme financially supported by the Federation Secretariat's Capacity Building Fund. As this programme came to an end in the summer 2005, the Federation had been discussing with the Romanian Red Cross the possibility of initiating a Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) process in the country, to support the National Society to manage its relations with current and potential donors according to its priorities and strategies and within agreed standards. This operation was implemented against this background, and with the intention of improving key partner relationships and cooperation, including those of RC branches with authorities on the local and municipal level. It should also be mentioned that the flooding came at a crucial time in the National Society's development – with a need to consolidate the initial organisational development steps taken, with a focus on headquarters and branch relations.

National Society Capacity Building

The planned change process and 2-year organisational development programme has focused on building National Society capacity in six key areas: financial management, governance & management, fundraising, project planning process, communication and human resources. A new and committed leadership have made significant progress in building the capacity of the National Society and its profile and image both nationally and internationally amongst donors. In its third and final year according to the current plan, this process focused on consolidating the branch/headquarters relationship in 2005. This operation has been an opportunity to further improve branch/headquarters relationships as well as to increase operational disaster management experience at different levels of the National Society.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Romanian RC PR coordinator has been in regular contact with media partners, and press releases have been issued, outlining the Romanian RC's response in the affected area. Information is available to the general public through the National Society's website in Romanian and English.

The Romanian RC ran a very successful fundraising campaign following the tsunami in South East Asia at the beginning of 2005, collecting over CHF 1 million for the Federation appeal. This flood operation has been an opportunity and a challenge for the National Society to consolidate its fundraising initiatives and to work with the new donors it developed during the tsunami campaign but for the benefit of affected population in Romania – very much closer to home. The Romanian RC received a total of 947,160 Euro from local donors such as Petrom, Mol, OMV, McCann Erikson, Colgate – Palmolive, Orange, Media Group Services International, Open Society Foundation, Scop Computers, BASF, Alpha Bank, Interbrew, Krafts Food or individuals for the victims of the floods.

Impact/Constraints

The Romanian Red Cross relief assistance was crucial for those people affected by the floods for the second or third time. With houses slow to be repaired or rebuilt, the assistance the Romanian Red Cross is continuing to provide to those housed in containers is a source of hope. Many of those affected by last years flooding, have also found themselves the victims of the latest phase of flooding in spring 2006. The Romanian RC branches will be distributing food parcels over the coming months to complete the 2006 operation.

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The capacity of the Romanian RC headquarters disaster management department was severely tested by the extended flood emergency and post-emergency relief operation. The lack of coordination and planning experience in the DM Department as well as the lack of a specialist in logistics at the level of the RRC HQ led to difficulties in purchasing the relief items and in distributing them to the RRC branches in the affected areas. In response, with the support of the Swiss RC, a logistician was recruited and is working, currently part time, at the level of the RRC HQ. The Federation has also supported the operation through continuous deployment of members of the regional disaster response team (RDRT). Experienced counterparts from National Societies in the region have supported the Romanian RC throughout the operation, and have supported capacity building attempts at the headquarters for future operations.

However, it is imperative that long term human resource solutions are found, so that the disaster management department at headquarters can develop a longer term plan to increase disaster response capacity at all levels, and provide a service to the branches in the fields of training, disaster preparedness, logistics and relief distribution.

Initial inexperience and insufficient knowledge of the local market led to some delays in the procurement procedures. In response to this, a database of local producers of different relief items was created and can now be used for the new flood operation.

As a result of the project implementation, the RRC has improved its knowledge of the purchase, customs and contracting legislation.

The importance of regular assessment of beneficiary needs in a disaster situation and throughout an operation was reinforced through this experience.

Financial information

Two DREF allocations were received in the total amount of CHF 192,378: the first one being in the amount of CHF 160,428 in April 2005 and the second allocation in the amount of CHF 31,950 in September 2005. By the end of July 2006, there was still a provision to cover some unreported costs. The respective expenditure was submitted in August and the unspent funds in the amount of CHF 107, indicated in the attached financial report, will be returned to DREF accordingly.

[Final financial report below ; click here to return to the title page.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Provisional Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/04-2006/07
Budget Timeframe	2005/04-2006/07
Appeal	M05EA009
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		1'055'000				1'055'000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
Cash contributions						
Austrian Red Cross		7'783				7'783
British Red Cross		234'956				234'956
Icelandic Red Cross		5'093				5'093
Irish Government		77'500				77'500
Japanese Red Cross Society		34'631				34'631
Norwegian Red Cross		19'550				19'550
Swedish Red Cross		33'600				33'600
Turkish Red Crescent Society		12'800				12'800
United States - Private Donors		3'983				3'983
C1. Cash contributions		429'896				429'896
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
DREF		192'378				192'378
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		192'378				192'378
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		622'274				622'274
D. Total Funding = B + C		622'274				622'274

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		622'274				622'274
E. Expenditure		-622'167				-622'167
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		107				107

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		1'055'000					1'055'000	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	1'200						1'200	
Clothing & textiles	125'000		60'680			60'680	64'320	
Food	540'000		277'330			277'330	262'670	
Water & Sanitation	8'000		645			645	7'355	
Utensils & Tools	6'000		6'266			6'266	-266	
Other Supplies & Services	156'000		34'719			34'719	121'281	
Total Supplies	836'200		379'639			379'639	456'561	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	20'000		39'050			39'050	-19'050	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	20'000		39'050			39'050	-19'050	
Transport & Storage								
Storage			3'938			3'938	-3'938	
Distribution & Monitoring	18'000		23'220			23'220	-5'220	
Transport & Vehicle Costs			2'111			2'111	-2'111	
Total Transport & Storage	18'000		29'270			29'270	-11'270	
Personnel Expenditures								
Regionally Deployed Staff			15'812			15'812	-15'812	
National Staff	18'000		6'418			6'418	11'582	
National Society Staff			8'583			8'583	-8'583	
Consultants			3'070			3'070	-3'070	
Total Personnel Expenditures	18'000		33'883			33'883	-15'883	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training			11'649			11'649	-11'649	
Total Workshops & Training			11'649			11'649	-11'649	
General Expenditure								
Travel	31'225		48'587			48'587	-17'362	
Information & Public Relation	47'000		4'384			4'384	42'616	
Office Costs			8'921			8'921	-8'921	
Communications	16'000		24'097			24'097	-8'097	
Financial Charges			1'370			1'370	-1'370	
Total General Expenditure	94'225		87'359			87'359	6'866	
Program Support								
Program Support	68'575		40'441			40'441	28'134	
Total Program Support	68'575		40'441			40'441	28'134	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			877			877	-877	
Total Operational Provisions			877			877	-877	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1'055'000		622'167			622'167	432'833	
VARIANCE (C - D)			432'833			432'833		