

MINOR EMERGENCY



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

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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

CHF 100,000 (USD 84,730 OR EUR 64,794) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION.

UN earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

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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 Organisations \(NGO's\) 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 heavy rains in April and snow melting in Romania's Carpathian Mountains, the water level of the Tamis River (on the Romania/Serbia border) has risen rapidly. As a consequence, on 20 April at 21:00 the water overflowed the river banks and broke the dike on the Romanian side of the river, flooding the area surrounding the Jasa Tomic village in Serbia. The village is situated in the municipality of Secanj, in the eastern part of Vojvodina

where 2,996 inhabitants (1,000 households) live. Sixty percent (60%) of the population is elderly, and forty percent (40%) live on agricultural production.

Initial reports indicate that 700 houses are completely flooded, and 100 have been destroyed by the water. Since most of the houses are constructed out of clay bricks, there is a fear that many more houses will be heavily damaged or completely destroyed when the water withdraws.

Basic infrastructure (railway, bridges and the Vrsac-Zrenjanin road) are endangered by water. The municipality of Plandiste (15,000-20,000 inhabitants) and the village of Veliki Gaj (more than 1,000 inhabitants) are also endangered by water. Inhabitants of both of these settlements are presently strengthening dikes with sand bags.

During the same night 300-400 persons were evacuated and accommodated with relatives and friends in the village of Krajisnik, 91 persons were sheltered in the Sutjeska village primary school, 20 people were accommodated in the Secanj primary school, and 40 were taken in a hotel in Secanj. Two persons died. The evacuation of inhabitants was organized by civil protection and army. Three municipal collective centres are accommodating almost 700 people. The municipality has received food donations from private donors, enabling 700 hot meals to be served on 21 April. Electricity and water sources are cut off, and military water trucks (cisterns) are distributing drinkable water to the population.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far

CHF 100,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), and given the developing nature of the situation and further assessments, it is anticipated that an Emergency Appeal will be launched shortly. The Red Cross distributed food tins (for breakfast and dinner) on 22 April. Red Cross water tanks were in function on 22 April.

On 21 April, the Vojvodina Red Cross branch transported the following to the affected area:

- 1,100 blankets.
- 244 mattresses.
- 60 kgs of soap.
- 100 kitchen sets (for 5 persons).
- 500 jerry cans (15 litres.).
- 2 water tanks (1,200 lit. each).

National headquarters sent:

- 2,000 tins of sardines.
- 900 tins of tuna-fish.
- 4,000 tins of meat-pasta.

The Red Cross of Serbia sent:

- 1,200 litre water tank
- 1,000 candles.



Relief item distribution in Jasa Tomic

Two national society emergency teams are mobilized, one from the Vojvodina (Novi Sad) Red Cross branch and one from the national society headquarters (responsible for warehouse and transportation). The local Red Cross branch in Secanj is responsible for coordinating the reception and distribution of private donations. Many inhabitants joined the Red Cross to help the branch Secretary. DM coordinators from the Federation's country delegation in Belgrade provided support for the national society assessment efforts in the affected area on 21 April. Based on their assessment, a second shipment of relief items from the national society will be sent to Secanj on 22 April, consisting of:

- 2,000 candles .
- 1,000 pieces of soap.
- 15 baby-parcels .
- 500 pair of shoes .
- 20-30 raincoats and rubber boots .

Further support in the form of blankets, mattresses, hygiene items, and disinfectants will be needed. The national society has very limited food reserves; anticipated longer-term needs include food to replace the crops lost to the floods (estimated two months).

Coordination

There is excellent coordination and cooperation between all actors (local authority, civil protection, Red Cross, army, health center, inhabitants). The local Red Cross, in cooperation and coordination with civil protection and local authorities, is involved in all field activities and is responsible for the organization and distribution of relief assistance and care to the affected population.