

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

GEORGIA: FLOODS

no. 05ME027
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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 50,000 (USD 41,918 OR EUR 32,460) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION.

UNEARMARKED FUNDS TO REPAY DREF ARE ENCOURAGED.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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

Following five days of torrential rain, Georgia is experiencing one of its worst flooding situations in recent history. Initial reports indicate that the Racha-Lechkhumi region (Oni, Ambrolauri, Tsageri), the Svaneti region (Mestia, Lentekhi), and the Imereti region (Khoni, Tskaltubo, including Kutaisi city) are most affected. Basic infrastructure (roads, electric lines, and communications) has been seriously damaged because of the rising water levels, and resulting landslides. Search, rescue, and assistance activities are constrained due to the heavy continuous rainfall and limited access to the affected area. There is no access to some villages in the Imereti and Svaneti regions where the local population has been left without water and electricity.

In the Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti regions, the Rioni, Krikhula and Lekhumi rivers have flooded agricultural land and houses. Several roads, bridges, and water pumps have been washed away and are in need of urgent repair. Over 30 families have been evacuated from the Ambrolauri district, and 24 houses are badly damaged

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in the Oni district of Racha region. Houses have been flooded in Kutaisi and Tskaltubo in the Imereti region. In Tskaltubo, up to 50 households have been affected by the floods, and the inhabitants have been moved temporarily to their relatives for shelter.



According to the Emergency Situations and Civil Safety Service (ESCSS) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the water flow in the Rioni, Mtkvari and Tekhuri rivers has already passed a critical point.

The meteorological services in Georgia expect further rainfall, and increasing water levels in western Georgia that might cause further floods, landslides and mudslides around the Tskhenistskali, Acharistskali and Aragvi river channels. Rainfall moved towards eastern Georgia and about 8 houses have been flooded in Tbilisi city (alongside the Mtkvari River).

As reported by the ESCSS, a Crisis Management Center has been set up by the Regional Governor in Kutaisi. A special emergency commission has been set-up by the Government headed by the Prime Minister. The Government has not issued an official statement on damage, and at this time has not appealed for international assistance.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CHF 50,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Given the developing nature of the situation and based on further assessments, it is anticipated that an Emergency Appeal will be launched shortly (in response to a request from the Government and the national society). The Federation is in the process of deploying a Field Assessment and Coordination Team. All three components of the Movement in Georgia – the Red Cross Society of Georgia, the Federation and the ICRC – have established close contacts, and a first coordination meeting was held at the national society headquarters on 27 April 2005. The ICRC is ready to contribute with logistics and some relief items if needed. The Federation has had contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the commission established to coordinate possible international assistance. The national society has been contacted by the Turkish Red Crescent offering operational support to respond to this situation. The Swiss Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Georgia has indicated that support is available when the Government indicates external assistance is necessary.

The first team meeting of the UN Resident Coordinator Office (under the framework of the international Disaster Management Team) was held at the UN office in Tbilisi, where the Georgian government representatives shared the latest information regarding their plans and intentions.

Assessments to generate details on immediate needs continue (prior to the FACT deployment), working closely the UN or through the Federation's regional disaster response teams. Further information will be made available shortly via subsequent updates.

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