

# 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

## BULGARIA: FLOODS

ME No.05ME035  
24 March 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

#### Minor Emergency history:

- Launched on 20 June 2005 for CHF 92,666 (USD 73,046 or EUR 60,050) for 1 months to assist 1,250 families/5,000 beneficiaries
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 92,666

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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>

### Background and Summary



Heavy rains and storms affected nine regions of Bulgaria

As a result of heavy rains and storms that occurred at the end of May and beginning of June 2005 (25 May to 10 June, 2005), nine regions in the north of Bulgaria, with a population of some two million people have been affected. Three persons were reported dead. A state of emergency was declared in the municipalities of Rousse, Dve Mogili, Lukovit, Pravec, Mezdra, Roman, Svoge and in Sofia. As the water levels of the Iskar, Vit, Osam, and Struma rivers rose rapidly and dam capacity in the region reached a critical point, authorities initiated controlled draining of Studena, Jovkovci, Aleksandar Stamboliiski dams, resulting in infrastructure damage to roads, railways, electricity and water supply systems and telecommunications, as well as to personal property: flooded basements, houses and farms.

By 13 June, a number of houses in the municipalities of Mezdra, Iskar, Pernik and Svoge in Sofia region were still flooded. The flooding of septic tanks has contaminated agricultural land and normal sanitation systems were not working for some time.

### **Coordination with local authority and state initiatives**

The State Agency for Civil Protection, the Fire Brigade, Police and other disaster response partners coordinated their actions in response to the crisis. From the beginning of the alert, the Bulgarian Red Cross has been in daily contact with the Crisis Management Centre of the Civil Protection agency. The regional branches of the Bulgarian Red Cross played a critical role in monitoring developments in their respective communities. On 9 June 2005, a meeting of the Standing Commission for Protecting the Population authorized the provision of aid in the amount of six million leva (approximately 3 million EURO) for the emergency and rehabilitation phase and to cover immediate needs. In coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Agency for Civil Protection has requested support from the Euro-Atlantic Coordination Centre and the European Union for technical and financial assistance.

The Standing Governmental Commission asked the Bulgarian Red Cross for assistance and the Civil Protection agency continues to provide updated statistics to the Bulgarian Red Cross.

There were regular coordination meetings with other Agencies (United Nations Development Programme, World Health Organisation, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and exchange of information about the activities in response to the floods.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

### **Bulgarian Red Cross (part of the National Emergency Response Plan)**

Regional Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC) branches maintained daily contact with relevant authorities and the civil protection agency, to monitor the situation and to implement their response initiatives. Regional BRC branch representatives are members of the Local Standing Commissions for protection of the population and in this capacity they took part in all coordination meetings related to the floods. Immediate response was organized in all affected regions from the BRC branches, providing emergency relief according to the needs of the affected population: blankets, bedding, mattresses, pillows and food.

### **Assessment**

A Federation Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training was held in Bulgaria in the same region that was affected by floods. The Bulgarian Red Cross President and Director General requested the assistance of the RDRT team to assess the situation. Experienced RDRT members from neighboring national societies, who facilitated the training, conducted an assessment mission to the affected area on 11 June 2005, together with the Bulgarian Red Cross Disaster Management counterpart. A water and sanitation expert from Geneva – also one of the training facilitators – joined the assessment team. The team visited the villages of Jiten, Mirovjane, Izgrev, Slavovci and Kumarica in the affected area in the municipality of Novi Iskar. In the village of Jiten, the assessment team met with the mayor and deputy mayor of the Novi Iskar region as well as the head of the Civil Protection office for Sofia region. On 15 June 2005, the assessment continued and was conducted by the participants of the training, who of the course were asked as part of their practice exercise to conduct follow-up assessment missions in four groups to affected villages (Jiten, Mirovjane, Izgrev, Slavoski and Kumaritsa). Information from these assessments confirmed previous information (see previous section), with updates on the latest initiatives by the fire brigade and civil protection concentrating on infrastructure protection and repair (continuing pumping of basement flood water, further protection of houses by placing sand bags and provision of earth by trucks, damage assessment by engineers and technicians).

## **Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements, impact**

### **Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)**

**Objective 1: Distribute basic non-food items to 1,250 families/households (5,000 persons) over a period of one month**

The following activities have been undertaken to fulfill this objective:

**BRC Headquarters compiled and sent out relief operation guidelines to be used by Bulgarian Red Cross branches**

A letter with guidance on relief operation activities in all of the affected regions was sent to BRC branches, including beneficiary selection criteria.

**BRC branches compiled beneficiary lists**

BRC uses a standard form for disaster relief distribution and all the branches received guidelines on how to fill in the forms.

**Relief items were procured in Bulgaria**

All items planned to be purchased to meet the needs of affected population (1250 hygiene parcels, 1250 kitchen sets, 2500 l disinfectants, 700 blankets and 700 bedding sets) were ordered based on a comparative bid analysis (CBA).



**Family hygiene parcels distributed with the support of Federation/Red Cross DREF**

**Non-food relief items were delivered to the Bulgarian Red Cross local branches**

All relief items were delivered on time to the Regional Branches with BRC transport. The loading and unloading of the trucks was done by volunteers and staff at the headquarters and locally. Due to problems with local kitchen equipment producers, the distribution started from the end of July and in early August, but all beneficiaries received the items within a very short period of time. By 11 August, all kitchen sets had been distributed to the affected population.

**Distribution**

BRC Branches organized distribution to the beneficiaries in their regions in cooperation with the local authorities- mayors, social services and local representatives of the Agency for Civil Protection. The

neediest were selected based on criteria mentioned in the DREF proposal. All beneficiaries were registered during distribution and copies of the lists were sent to Bulgarian Red Cross Headquarters.

**Distribution of the relief goods**

<b>Regions</b>	<b>Population Supported</b>	<b>Relief Goods</b>
Veliko Tarnovo	540 persons/135 families/households	135 hygiene parcels 135 kitchen sets 270 l disinfectant /bleach
Lovech	540 persons/135 families/households	135 hygiene parcels 135 kitchen sets 270 l disinfectant /bleach 68 sets bed linen
Pleven	400 persons/100 families/households	100 hygiene parcels 100 kitchen sets 200 l disinfectant /bleach 160 sets bed linen
Pernik	540 persons/135 families/households	135 hygiene parcels 135 kitchen sets 270 l disinfectant /bleach 292 sets bed linen
Rousse	560 persons/140 families/households	140 hygiene parcels 140 kitchen sets 280 l disinfectant /bleach

Sofia district	720 persons/180 families/households	180 hygiene parcels 180 kitchen sets 360 l disinfectant /bleach
Sofia city region	700 persons/175 families/households	175 hygiene parcels 175 kitchen sets 350 l disinfectant /bleach
Targovishte	500 persons/125 families/households	125 hygiene parcels 125 kitchen sets 250 l disinfectant /bleach 700 blankets
Vratsa	500 persons/125 families/households	125 hygiene parcels 125 kitchen sets 250 l disinfectant /bleach 72 sets bed linen

**Note:** 592 sets bed linen have been distributed, and 108 sets used for replenishment of the distributed to the affected population.

### Monitoring and Reporting

Bulgarian Red Cross reporting and monitoring systems were activated and midterm and final monitoring visits were conducted in the following regions: Veliko Tarnovo, Lovech, Pleven, Vratsa and Rousse.

On 8 August 2005, a final field visit was organized by the Bulgarian Red Cross to monitor the status in the regions of Vratza, Pleven and Russe (team 1), and Lovech and Veliko Tarnovo (team 2) related to the floods. Each monitoring team consisted of three BRC Headquarters staff: Team leader, Regional Disaster Response Team member, expert accountant from the Finance Department and expert from the Public Relations department. The teams visited Regional branches of BRC, local Agency for Civil protection representatives, Mayors of the affected areas and villages and towns hit by the floods. Team members also observed the process of distribution of relief items and met people affected by the floods.

### The teams had the following tasks:

1. Review the development of the situation caused by the floods in Bulgaria;
2. Review Bulgarian Red Cross response to the needs of those affected by the floods;
3. Identify other potential needs that affected people would share which have not been covered by actions taken;
4. Find out whether the actions taken adequately responded to the disaster;
5. Review the effectiveness of the actions taken in response to the disaster;
6. Review the cooperation of the BRC with the local authorities, institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations in response to the disaster
7. Collect recommendations from stakeholders (affected people, BRC, governmental institutions, etc.) in order to improve the actions that will possibly be taken in the future;
8. Review the participation of Bulgarian Red Cross volunteers on grass-root level in responding to the floods, their roles and their needs;
9. Review the extent to which the assistance provided by the donor had an effect on overcoming the disaster situation and reducing the suffering of the affected people.

### Monitoring tools

- Direct observation during field visits
- Interviews with key persons
- Semi-structured interviews
- Review of documentation

### Conclusion

The Monitoring Teams checked whether assistance met the basic needs of the affected population. The DREF funds/IFRC/RC enabled the Bulgarian Red Cross to adequately respond to the needs of the affected population. The Red Cross achieved the objective to provide relief to people in need.

**Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives**

During the period May/June 2005, the Bulgarian Red Cross took part in the Emergency relief distribution and as partner of the State institutions supported the people affected by the floods. BRC organized regular meetings of the Crisis Management Team and all decisions for response have been made according to the needs. Press conferences, briefings and TV coverage about the RC operation have been organized with Central and Local media.

**National Society Capacity Building**

The implementation of the project provided an opportunity to BRC to strengthen its disaster response capacity. The floods were the largest disaster that has happened in Bulgaria for the last 80 years, and affected approximately 62 % of the country. BRC regional branches in the affected regions improved their skills to work together with governmental and local authorities. Better coordination and cooperation was established also with ministries, agencies and other NGOs working on the flood operations and assisting the affected population.

**Lessons learned****Branch Level**

All BRC units participated in the operation. The affected regions received support from neighbouring non-affected regions and BRC Headquarters. A direct communication line was used during the disaster. However the branches continue to need further support in training and developing their disaster preparedness (DP)/disaster response (DR) capacity.

Small DP warehouses, with basic relief supplies, should be established and organized for direct support in case of disaster. Emergency funds available for immediate response in each branch is essential. Personal equipment for volunteers and staff is needed throughout the whole system of BRC. There is also a need to form, equip, and train local teams in several municipalities to respond to disasters, including search and rescue operations. That includes also insurances and certification for operating specialized equipment.

**BRC Headquarters**

The overall coordination of the operation was assumed by the BRC's Crisis management Team. The situation developed in such a way that went beyond the BRC's capacity to respond. More people were needed to respond to the escalation in the flood situation and to provide immediate response through the response operation. The BRC leadership allocated colleagues from other BRC Headquarter Departments to support the relief operation.

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

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

M05ME035 - BULGARIA: FLOODS

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/06-2006/02
Budget Timeframe	2005/06-2006/02
Appeal	M05ME035
Budget	APPROVED

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		92'666				92'666
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
DREF		92'666				92'666
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		92'666				92'666
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		92'666				92'666
D. Total Funding = B + C		92'666				92'666

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		92'666				92'666
E. Expenditure		-92'614				-92'614
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		52				52

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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
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		92'666					92'666	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Clothing & textiles	11'550		9'735				9'735	1'815
Water & Sanitation	1'250		757				757	493
Medical & First Aid	20'000							20'000
Utensils & Tools	37'500		47'063				47'063	-9'563
Other Supplies & Services			14'038				14'038	-14'038
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>70'300</b>		<b>71'593</b>				<b>71'593</b>	<b>-1'293</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	8'000		5'301				5'301	2'699
Transport & Vehicle Costs			845				845	-845
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>8'000</b>		<b>6'146</b>				<b>6'146</b>	<b>1'854</b>
<b>Personnel Expenditures</b>								
National Staff	3'000							3'000
National Society Staff			2'983				2'983	-2'983
<b>Total Personnel Expenditures</b>	<b>3'000</b>		<b>2'983</b>				<b>2'983</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Information & Public Relation			260				260	-260
Office Costs			3'184				3'184	-3'184
Communications	700		2'053				2'053	-1'353
Financial Charges			70				70	-70
Other General Expenses	4'643							4'643
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>5'343</b>		<b>5'567</b>				<b>5'567</b>	<b>-225</b>
<b>Program Support</b>								
Program Support	6'023		6'020				6'020	3
<b>Total Program Support</b>	<b>6'023</b>		<b>6'020</b>				<b>6'020</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Operational Provisions</b>								
Operational Provisions			304				304	-304
<b>Total Operational Provisions</b>			<b>304</b>				<b>304</b>	<b>-304</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>92'666</b>		<b>92'614</b>				<b>92'614</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>52</b>				<b>52</b>	