

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 / KOSOVO: **ME no. 05ME064** 18 November 2005

WINTER ASSISTANCE

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 123,879 (USD 96,742 OR EUR 80,154) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO ASSIST 1,300 ELDERLY BENEFICIARIES FOR 3 MONTHS.

UN earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For longer-term programmes, 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 a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The situation

Kosovo's needs and challenges remain numerous six years after the conflict. A fragile economy, high unemployment, and a wide spectrum of social groups¹ in need of special assistance are just some of the pressing issues confronting Kosovo's institutions. With about 10% of the resident population (approximately 52,000 families with more than 197,000 family members) receiving social assistance benefits and many more families not

¹ Research carried out by the Red Cross Movement in 2005 showed that the most vulnerable social groups include: single female-headed households, youth, elderly, families of the missing, minorities and handicapped.



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eligible for such assistance due to highly restrictive criteria, the needs in the social sector are still extremely high.

Very cold weather and temperatures below zero in November 2005 increased concerns about the upcoming winter. Severe winter with heavy snowfalls, especially in the remote mountain areas, affects many vulnerable families due to their poor living conditions. One of the most affected groups during this time of the year is the elderly living without any family support.

The extreme vulnerability of the elderly has a number of factors: the high number of pensioners not receiving their pensions, the migration of young people from rural areas, and limited or no means for living. The winter presents period of particular hardship as many of them are neither able to prepare themselves for the cold winter nor have access to outside support (e.g. for the heating requirements like wood, coal, etc). There are limited institutions capable of providing adequate assistance for this vulnerable group.

Both Red Cross organizations in Kosovo², with the support from the Federation, have carried out a rapid assessment to determine the number of elderly people that need emergency winterization assistance this year. More than 1,300 beneficiaries were identified as highly vulnerable during the coming winter and in need of assistance. The beneficiary lists were prepared according to the following criteria: old age (over 60 years of age), poor living conditions, living without family support in remote areas, having little or no means of support, inadequate provision of services from other service providers, registration with Social Welfare Centres.

Due to the isolated location of many of the villages and their inaccessibility during the winter, it is necessary to provide emergency winterization support as soon as possible.

The needs

Immediate needs:

Based on the recent assessment, the following items and support will be provided to the beneficiaries:

Item / Service	No. of beneficiaries
Limited but necessary repairs on houses (e.g. repairing broken windows, covering holes in roofing and walls, etc)	120
Food	252
Wood stoves	125
Wood for heating	285

Longer-term needs:

A number of longer-term needs of the elderly were also identified. These needs are mainly in the area of home care and will also be covered during the emergency assistance phase, but will continue to be addressed as part of the Federation supported Home Care program. They include:

Item / Service	No. of beneficiaries
Medical assistance like basic medication	416
Psychosocial support	161
Support with domestic tasks	128

Federation Coordination

The Federation and both Red Cross organizations in Kosovo will closely cooperate in this emergency winterization assistance. The operation will be coordinated by the branch secretaries of both Red Cross organizations in their

² Since the end of the 1999 conflict in Kosovo, there have been two local Red Cross organisations operating within the boundaries of Kosovo. The Red Cross of Kosova (RCK) with 26 branches, works on behalf of 93% of the population, while the Red Cross of Kosovo and Metohija (RCKM) works with 6 branches (recognized by the ICRC and Federation Offices in Kosovo) that form part of Serbian RC within the Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross Society structure. A process of dialogue has been started, intended to lead to the establishment of one strong multi-ethnic Red Cross body in Kosovo.

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areas of responsibility. Red Cross volunteers will be responsible for delivering winter emergency assistance and home care services. All activities will be carried out in coordination with the local and social welfare authorities.

The proposed operation

Objectives and Activities

Goal: Providing emergency winterization assistance to the most vulnerable elderly population in Kosovo.

Objective 1: The most vulnerable elderly in Kosovo have received emergency winterization items (food and non-food) that will allow them to get through the winter.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Procurement of emergency winterization items.
- Distribution of emergency winterization items (stoves, wood and food) by Red Cross volunteers according to the prepared beneficiary lists.
- Provision of emergency winterization services (minor house repairs) by Red Cross volunteers according to the prepared beneficiary lists.
- Coordination with local and social welfare authorities.
- Monitoring and reporting.

Objective 2: The most vulnerable elderly in Kosovo have received emergency home care support and services that will strengthen their resilience and ability to get through the winter.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Assigning of Red Cross volunteers from the respective branches to individual beneficiaries.
- Provision and facilitation of home care services by the assigned Red Cross volunteers.
- Coordination with local and social welfare authorities.
- Monitoring and reporting.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

On 1 November 2005 an Information Bulletin was posted on the Federation website to raise public awareness about the approaching winter and the associated challenges for the most vulnerable people in Kosovo. For details, please visit the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Capacity of the National Society

The ability of the Red Cross organizations in Kosovo to respond to the situation is severely limited due to a significant lack of funds. Both organizations have only very limited relief stocks available because of continuous and constant demands for assistance in a socially extremely difficult situation throughout Kosovo. However, the greatest assets of both organizations are the numerous volunteers who are ready and able to provide emergency relief assistance. Since the conflict began in 1999, both Red Cross organizations have focused action on the delivery of emergency relief. Thus all branches have significant experience and trained volunteers as well as management capacity to implement the planned emergency winter assistance.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation re-established its office in Kosovo after the 1999 conflict. The current emphasis of the work is the support of both Red Cross organizations in Organizational Development, Disaster Management and Health & Care programmes. The team, consisting of five national staff and one delegate, has significant experience in supporting emergency relief operations and will be able to provide any required support to the Red Cross organizations in the implementation of the winterization emergency operation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

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The Federation and both Red Cross organizations will continuously monitor the needs of the beneficiaries and the emergency winterization assistance provided in coordination with the local and social welfare authorities. All winterization assistance items and services provided to the beneficiaries will be logged in signed recipient lists.

Budget summary

<i>Item</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Unit Cost</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Supplies				
Construction Material	120	Beneficiaries	310.00	37,200.00
Food Stuffs	252	Beneficiaries	23.25	5,859.00
Basic Medication	1	Unit	4,000.00	4,000.00
Wood Stoves	125	Beneficiaries	209.25	26,156.25
Wood for heating	285	Beneficiaries	108.50	30,922.50
Transport for beneficiaries	1	Unit	1,240.00	1,240.00
Sub-Total				105,377.75
Transport				
Vehicle Fuel, Maintenance, Spare Parts				1,372.50
Geneva Costs				
Program Management Support				8,052.16
Personnel				
Nat/NS Staff-Local Staff Salary Support				7,521.38
General / Admin				
Office Rent, Telephone, Internet, etc				1,555.57
TOTAL CHF				123,879.35

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