



SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO/KOSOVO: WINTER ASSISTANCE

*Final Report for
DREF Bulletin
no. 05ME064
28 July 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 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this Final Report: 18 November 2005 to 25 May 2006.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 123,879 allocated from the Federations DREF on 18 November, 2005 to respond to the needs of this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.
- This operation was initially expected to be implemented in 3 months. The operation timeframe was extended by 3 months in February 2006 and completed by 25 May, 2006. In line with Federation reporting standards, the DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 25 August, 2006).

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its 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.

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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>

Background and Summary

Severe winter with heavy snowfalls, especially in the remote mountain areas, is one of the major problems that affect many households in Kosovo. During winter, a large number of people are cut-off from the outside world for weeks. This affects in particular the elderly people living alone: with limited food and non-food supplies, poor living conditions and their inability to prepare for the heating requirements (wood, coal, etc) in the winter, they are particularly vulnerable with no proper support and services being offered to them.



Being left alone by their family members, due to economic reasons, makes the elderly more vulnerable during the winter

Another factor that makes the elderly more vulnerable during the winter is the problem of being left alone by their family members. The reason for this is the bad economic situation in Kosovo and the need for the younger people and families to migrate from rural and remote areas in order to find work. As a result they have to leave the elderly behind without the traditional family support network.

The branches of both Red Cross organizations in Kosovo have been providing winterization assistance to the most vulnerable elderly people living alone and without family support. Following an assessment conducted by the local Red Cross during the autumn of 2005, all activities were planned, carried out and monitored by the branch Secretaries and the RC volunteers.

Some 1,300 elderly beneficiaries were identified during the assessment, based on specially designed criteria to determine the needs and actions to be undertaken in order to assist vulnerable elderly persons. The following activities were identified and implemented:

- Provision of firewood and wood stoves (traditional and readily available heating source)
- Small winterization repairs of houses
- Assistance in domestic tasks, like chopping of firewood, etc.
- Provision of food and in some special cases non-food items (mattresses and blankets)
- Basic medical assistance



The Federation Office in Kosovo has made provisions to be able to support winterization activities in the 2006/2007 winter

However, it is important to note that this is a **recurring emergency**, as the social situation of the elderly living alone and without family support is rather deteriorating than improving. The social welfare services are not even able to cover the basic needs of the most vulnerable in Kosovo. In addition, while the local RC organizations have the operational capacity to assist this target group, they do not have the financial resources to provide this assistance on a regular (i.e. annual) basis. The Federation Office in Kosovo has thus made provisions in its Kosovo Appeal to support the local RC organizations in winterization activities through its social welfare

programme. Unfortunately the funding level of the Kosovo Appeal is still very low and thus the Federation may not be able to support such activities in the 2006/2007 winter.

Coordination

The Red Cross Movement was the only organisation providing assistance to the vulnerable elderly in this minor emergency. Beneficiary lists were cross-checked and activities were coordinated with the local social welfare authorities.

Analysis of the operation

Constraints

Due to the early onset of winter, the majority of the minor repair activities could not be completed before the winter due to heavy snowfalls and the resulting inaccessibility of remote areas. Thus an extension of the minor emergency period was requested to allow the branches to finalize the activities later and to contribute to better and healthier living conditions for the elderly people.

Achievements and Impact

Red Cross branches provided the following items to the beneficiaries:

Item	Number	Beneficiaries
Chopped firewood (2m ³ per household)	572 m ³	286
Wood stoves	141	141
Food parcels	252	252
Basic medicines		210
Minor repairs		120



During the difficult time of the year, branches and their volunteers have provided efficient services and assistance to the most vulnerable

The beneficiaries for minor necessary house repairs were identified in a detailed assessment. Local experts, together with Red Cross branch volunteers, visited each beneficiary to assess the necessary works that needed to be undertaken (e.g. as covering the holes in roofing and walls, repairing broken windows, plastering and other minor works) and evaluate the costs of minor repairs. All the supporting documents were submitted by the branches to their HQs and the Federation for approval of works. The implementations of these works were closely monitored by the Federation and both Red Cross organizations.

The Federation and local Red Cross organizations have evaluated this operation and concluded that branches and their volunteers have provided efficient services and assistance to the most vulnerable. The provided emergency assistance enabled the beneficiaries living in

remote rural areas to cope better with the harsh winter conditions, and most likely reduced the number of potential deaths during this difficult time of the year.

Financial Information

In total, CHF 123,879 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for this assistance. However, as the amount of CHF 91,863 was enough to implement the planned activities, the remaining CHF 32,016 was returned back to DREF.

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

M05ME064 - KOSOVO: WINTER 2005

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/11-2006/07
Budget Timeframe	2005/11-2006/07
Appeal	M05ME064
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		123'879				123'879
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
DREF		91'863				91'863
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		91'863				91'863
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		91'863				91'863
D. Total Funding = B + C		91'863				91'863

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		91'863				91'863
E. Expenditure		-91'863				-91'863
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

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Reporting Timeframe	2005/11-2006/07
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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)		123'879					123'879	
Supplies								
Construction	37'200		10'536				10'536	26'664
Clothing & textiles			313				313	-313
Food	5'859		5'870				5'870	-11
Seeds,Plants			39				39	-39
Medical & First Aid	4'000		3'477				3'477	523
Utensils & Tools	26'156		22'156				22'156	4'000
Other Supplies & Services	32'163		32'180				32'180	-17
Total Supplies	105'378		74'571				74'571	30'807
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1'373		2'166				2'166	-794
Total Transport & Storage	1'373		2'166				2'166	-794
Personnel Expenditures								
National Staff	5'289		5'219				5'219	70
National Society Staff	2'232		2'248				2'248	-16
Total Personnel Expenditures	7'521		7'467				7'467	55
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relation			82				82	-82
Office Costs	900		884				884	16
Communications	656		722				722	-66
Total General Expenditure	1'556		1'688				1'688	-133
Program Support								
Program Support	8'052		5'971				5'971	2'081
Total Program Support	8'052		5'971				5'971	2'081
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	123'879		91'863				91'863	32'016
VARIANCE (C - D)			32'016				32'016	