

# DREF Bulletin Update



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

## ROMANIA: FLOODS

**DREF Bulletin**  
**no. MDRRO001**  
**26 April 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 over 183 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin Update No. 1 is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 168,930 (EUR 107,723) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this mission, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This mission is expected to be implemented over 14 days from 20 April, 2006, and will be completed by 03 May, 2006; a Final Report will be made available one month after the end of the mission (by 6 June, 2006). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

The Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) is in the process of assisting in developing a preliminary emergency appeal, expected to be launched by the end of the week, with a full appeal to be launched shortly after, once assessment figures have been cross checked, and the full extent of the needs is established.

This mission is aligned with the International Federation's 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 missions in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## **Background and current situation**

Over the past three weeks, Romania has been hit by the heaviest seasonal flooding in 110 years. Three counties in south-western Romania – Caras-Severin, Mehedinti and Dolj – and three counties in the south-eastern part of the country – Tulcea, Constanta and Calarsi – have suffered the most. At present Dolj county is the most affected. The situation is expected to worsen before the flooding subsides.

Several dams were broken during the night 23/24 April in Dolj and Constanta counties. According to the first information received by authorities, a total of 3,000 people from Dolj county have been evacuated or are to be evacuated, mainly from the villages around Bistret. Evacuations have also been prepared in villages Dabuleni, Calaras and Sarata. According to information from the Ministry of the Interior on 25<sup>th</sup> of April, 4,000 people were evacuated overnight in Calarasi.

The critical problem is the capacity of the dykes to withstand the pressure of water, which they have been holding back for some time. The dykes are not expected to be able to withstand such continuous pressure for periods over one week. The situation with the dykes in the Delta region is critical. The current flooding experienced is due to breakages in such dykes and the risk is increasing with time. A further wave of flooding along the Danube is expected in the coming two weeks, which, if dykes burst, could lead to the evacuation of some 100,000 persons over the coming two weeks, according to figures from the authorities. The level of preparedness has been raised both at governmental and Red Cross level. No casualties have been reported so far.

According to figures collected by the Field Assessment and Coordination Team/Regional Disaster Response Team (FACT/RDRT), the total number of households affected in the country is 2,867. This does not include just families, but also the resources available to families such as farm buildings, storage facilities etc. Some 20,000 persons are affected along the Danube in total. There are also other incidents of landslides and floods in other parts of the country. The FACT/RDRT team assessment and Red Cross action is being concentrated in the priority areas along the Danube. Some 227 houses have been destroyed. Further destruction is expected as mud brick houses currently under water are not expected to withstand long term exposure to the flood waters. Just under 13,000 persons have been evacuated in total and are currently housed with family or friends, in sports halls and schools, specially erected camps, while some are on floating accommodation in the flooded areas.



**Romanian Red Cross supporting evacuees from Rast village**

The water is raising quickly in Oltina, and 415 people (140 families) have been evacuated. According to the sub-prefect, local authorities have food only for the first several days and after that additional assistance will be needed.

Total number of evacuated in Constanta county is 1,500 and all of them are accommodated with relatives and friends. At present, no problems with the water have been reported.

New information is being collected on a daily basis through the FACT/RDRT team assessments and through the local authorities.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A joint assessment team comprising of Romanian Red Cross (RRC), FACT/RDRT is present in the disaster area and has begun an assessment mission. From Friday 21 to Sunday 23 April, the first joint FACT/RDRT team members to arrive visited the counties of Dolj and Mehedinti and Caras-Severin. During the week beginning Monday 24<sup>th</sup> of April, the full team is carrying out assessment missions in the counties of Tulcea, Calarasi and Constanta. A Water/Sanitation (WatSan) delegate and a logistic delegate joined the team on Saturday. A bilateral delegate from the German Red Cross will be part of the team until the end of the week. The FACT/RDRT team, together with the Romanian RC, is currently preparing a plan of action for emergency relief phase and pre-positioning of stocks for the coming weeks. A preliminary emergency appeal is expected to be launched by the end of the week, with a full appeal to be launched shortly after, once assessment figures have been cross checked.

The joint RRC/RDRT/FACT team is planning to continue its mission until the 6<sup>th</sup> of May. By this time a plan of action will be in place through the appeal system to resource the emergency and follow up the floods operation. It is expected that a combination of International Federation delegate and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member will support the Romanian RC with the operation in the coming months.

### Field Assessments : Dolj



**Houses destroyed in the village of Rast along the Danube river**

The team met with the Branch Director of the RRC, the Sub Governor of Dolj, the Mayor of the village of Rast and with evacuated people from Rast village, which is currently flooded. According to the mayor of Rast, 3,900 of a total of 4,000 people had been evacuated by 21 April. The remaining population was to be evacuated on 21 April. Villagers have been evacuated to a camp on higher ground, using their own materials to set up temporary shelter. The army has provided 20 tents and the RRC has also provided 50 family tents. The villagers have also brought livestock with them. The Ministry of health has a first aid tent in the camp and is vaccinating the population (tetanus, hepatitis A). Food and water is provided by the military. Sanitation conditions are very poor: one

toilet /200 people and no washing possibilities. The army has promised to deliver mobile showers within the next few days.

The team also visited the village of Negoii. The road between Rast and Negoii is under water. Some 506 people in Negoii were encouraged to evacuate, although figures of actual evacuees are lacking. A camp for 50-60 people has been constructed by the army on land belonging to the municipality. Food is provided by the army, as well as medical care. Sanitation is problematic.

Severe floods have also occurred in the villages of Bistret and Carna in Dolj. According to the Sub Governor, in total 20 villages are at risk, 4 of them considered at severe risk. The total population of the 20 villages is 108,000, 13,000 are living in the four highest risk areas.

### Mehedinti, Caras-Severin

The assessment team visited Drobeta Turnu Severin and met the Governor of Mehedinti, the Head of county emergency inspectorate body and the Branch director of RRC. In Mehedinti there are 336,000 inhabitants. The most

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affected areas are Pristol and one village in that community - Cozia. Cozia has approximately 800 inhabitants, of which 40 have been evacuated and are accommodated with relatives. Many people have returned to their houses due to the water receding. Six family houses are totally destroyed. Part of Cozia is isolated but three boats are provided by the government. There is a three year old water supply system where the quality of the water is monitored by the health authorities. At present no diseases have been reported. A contingency plan in the event of new flooding exists.

In Caras-Severin the team visited Baile Herculane where landslides on the roads were the only visible effect of the floods.

### Emergency Activities

The Romanian RC is sending relief goods from its two regional warehouses to Dolj – the priority area for intervention at present. From Dambovitte warehouse, 600 blankets, 200 sleeping bags, 1,030 mattresses and 3 big tents were distributed to Dolj on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. From Alba Iulia regional warehouse 10 tents, 50 family tents (for 6 persons), 250 hygiene parcels, 100 pieces of bed linen and plastic dishes and cups were also delivered to Dolj. The Romanian RC central warehouse in Bucharest will take care of Calaras. The stocks available in the central and regional warehouses will not be sufficient to cover the expected needs.

- **Water & Sanitation:** The assessments by the teams revealed the need for the WATSAN Delegate to assess the situation in more detail and to coordinate with authorities according to plans. However focus in WATSAN field is expected to be on technical advocacy with the authorities. It is not expected that an Emergency Response Unit (ERU) will be requested.
- **Health & care:** No Red Cross action is identified as yet but will be considered in the plan of action.
- **Food & Nutrition: 1,931 food parcels have been purchased and will be distributed according to needs.**
- **Shelter & Relief:** 50 tents have been distributed by the RRC to Rast and more tents will be provided to the Rast Camp. 132 hygiene parcels, 158 blankets, 554 mattresses, 162 litres of sunflower oil, 160 kilos sugar, 160 kilos rice, 320 pcs of canned meat and 100 loafs of bread, 146 bed linen, 90 pairs of shoes for children, 60 pairs of rubber boots, 200 tea mugs, 300 plastic pots, 50 pairs of women hoses, 50 metallic sandwich boxes, 80 diapers, 79 sleeping bags and 395 blankets have been distributed by the RRC. Currently, the list of needed relief items for immediate distribution and for pre-positioning for coming weeks is being compiled.
- **Tracing:** The Romanian RC has not received any requests for tracing/RFL.

### Needs

#### Dolj:

- 1,000 blankets
- 1,000 mattresses
- 100 tents

#### Oltina:

- food
- hygiene items

Due to the difficult situation in the Delta region, boats may be needed for the distribution of relief goods.

### National Society Capacity

National Society capacity at headquarters level is limited, and is being supported by the current FACT/RDRT team. The plan of action and expected emergency appeal will look at additional human resource support in the coming weeks and months. The RRC acting disaster management (DM) Coordinator is efficiently handling the disaster situation working with the FACT/RDRT team.

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The strength of RRC branches affected by floods varies. Dolj is fairly strong with 300 volunteers, 59 percent of them trained. Calarasi branch is currently without a Branch director.

### **Cooperation and coordination**

At branch level, the RRC is coordinating with World Vision and church organisations. Coordination and planning is carried out with the local authorities on a daily basis. At present the civil protection in Romania is involved in rescue and evacuation activities. Romanian Orthodox church announced fund-raising campaign for flood victims. Offers of assistance have also been received from the Austrian, Belgian, British, German, Netherlands, Norwegian and Swiss Red Cross. The Swiss RC is planning to mobilize 200 tents, tarpaulin and other items. Discussions are also continuing with the Croatian and Albanian Red Cross about the possibility to mobilize relief goods for immediate transportation to Romania.

### **Media**

There is fairly high interest of national media, mainly in the Rast camp, due to the fact that it has been visited by government officials. A press trip for local media is planned by the RRC PR Officer with the assistance of the FACT Information delegate. The Information delegate had carried out two interviews by 21 April and stories are available on the Federation's webpage under the news section ([www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)).

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