

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

ROMANIA: FLOODS

Appeal No. MDRRO001
19 July 2007

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

Final Report; Period covered: 29 April 2006 to 30 April 2007; Appeal target: CHF 631,853 (USD 517,770 or EUR 385,575); Final appeal coverage: 100 per cent.

[<click here to link directly to the attached Final Financial Report>](#)

Appeal history:

- ❑ **Launched on 29 April 2006 for CHF 2,427,200 (USD 1.9 million or EUR 1.5 million) for 3 months to assist 13,000 beneficiaries.**
- ❑ **Operations Update no.1 issued on 10 May 2006 decreased the budget to CHF 2,067,057.**
- ❑ **Operations Update no.3 issued on 7 August 2006 extended the operation timeframe by three months, to 31 October 2006.**
- ❑ **Operations Update no.4 issued on 20 October 2006 extended the operation timeframe for an additional three months, up to 31 January 2007.**
- ❑ **In March 2007, the budget was revised to CHF 631,853 based on cash and in-kind donations received for this operation.**
- ❑ **Operations Update no.5 issued on 12 April 2007 extended the operation timeframe for an additional three months, up to 30 April 2007.**
- ❑ **Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 168,930.**

Operations summary: In April 2006, Romania was hit by the heaviest flooding in more than 100 years. The river Danube's defense system was destroyed and evacuation of people in the affected areas was carried out. A total of 226 locations in 22 counties were affected, with the south west and south east of the country being the most impacted. 13,401 persons were displaced to camps, host families and public buildings.

Thousands of beneficiaries were forced to live in tent camps and containers, reliant on external assistance for food, water and hygiene items. The relief operation in Romania focused on water and sanitation activities and a hygiene promotion campaign. Relief goods were received by the Romanian Red Cross (RRC), and were distributed in the field according to the plan of action based on needs assessment.

Funding to the Emergency Appeal has been slow, and the budget was on two occasions revised down to reflect this. The International Federation funding through this emergency appeal concentrated on completing food parcel distribution and construction of latrines and showers in camps in Dolj and Calarasi counties.

At the end of July 2006, all International Federation delegates and the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members ended their mission in Romania. From 1 August 2006 the RRC staff managed the operation, with continuing support from the Regional Delegation in Budapest.

In addition to the DREF allocation, contributions to the appeal have been received from the American, British, Japanese, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Netherlands and Swiss Red Cross Societies. The RRC also received many in-kind donations made bilaterally rather than through the appeal system.

This operation 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.

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>

Background and Summary

In April 2006, Romania was hit by the heaviest flooding in more than 100 years. A total of 226 locations in 22 counties were affected, with the south west and south east of the country being the most impacted. The flooding destroyed most of the Danube's defense system and caused evacuation of people in the affected areas. 13,401 persons were displaced to camps, host families and public buildings.

Following a joint Romanian Red Cross (RRC), Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) assessment, the International Federation launched a preliminary emergency appeal to provide shelter and other non-food items as well as water and sanitation services worth CHF 2,427,200 to some 13,000 beneficiaries for a period of up to three months.

The Federation released CHF 168,930 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to launch the operation. National societies in the region have responded immediately with offers. In-kind donations from the Turkish, German, Austrian and Swiss national societies were among the first donations that arrived in the country.

In the end of June 2006, further flooding was recorded in Suceava and Maramures in the north, Sibiu and Harghita in the centre (rain, heavy winds and hail storms) and Arges and Mehedinti in the South. Additional 303 houses and 1,940 households were affected, with 12.2 km of country roads and 28.5 of local roads being damaged. A total of 27 municipalities were left without electricity. Staff from local authorities and the Ministry of National Defence was deployed to assist the affected population. RC branches in the affected counties assessed the situation in close contact with local authorities and responded with their own stocks.

The situation with the displaced people across Romania varied, depending on whether they were living in government-organised camps, public buildings, with host families or in their own front yards. The services provided by the authorities were mostly targeted at those in camps, where there were medical services, food and

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some water and sanitation facilities. People living in other locations were receiving significantly less assistance. In Dolj county for instance, many have chosen to set up tents or makeshift shelters in the home compound rather than in the camp despite the flooded surroundings to be close to their land and tend to their animals.

Coordination

Mobilisation of resources by the authorities covering food, water, shelter and other emergency items came from a variety of sources: existing stocks held by the emergency inspectorate, private sector, individuals and humanitarian agencies.

RRC played a key role in initiating the monthly interagency meetings held in Bucharest, which contributed to information sharing and coordinating humanitarian assistance in the affected areas. Various agencies including Caritas, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Save the Children, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Romanian Orthodox Church, and World Vision International were present in the country, together with the Romanian Red Cross, delivering humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries affected by floods. The meetings helped planning by the agencies involved, especially by avoiding overlapping. They also served as a platform for information sharing. All agencies faced funding issues due to the low visibility of the disaster in the public sphere and had to narrow their scope of assistance. These meetings were attended after the emergency phase by representatives of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Administration and Interior and the National Inspectorate for Emergency situations.

During the operation period the RRC was invited to attend a meeting of the National Committee for Emergency Situations for the first time. Under Romanian law, RRC is entrusted with a specific response task in case of disasters, and for this reason has the right to attend such meetings. RRC General Director took the opportunity to inform the members of the committee about the activities implemented by RRC during the floods, as well as the coordination efforts of all humanitarian agencies through the interagency meetings.

Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements, impact

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: To provide humanitarian relief assistance to 13,000 evacuated/severely affected persons, consisting of tents, blankets, tarpaulins, plastic sheeting, mattresses, jerry cans, rubber boots, sleeping bags, food and hygiene parcels.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)



The RRC responded to the needs of the affected people by distributing relief items

The RRC was quick to respond to the needs of persons displaced by floods through its 47 branches and sub-branches that are constantly present in counties across Romania, distributing relief items from its own disaster preparedness stock.

Combined Red Cross assistance consisting of items supported by RRC itself, the Federation appeal and bilateral contributions, was successfully distributed in eight affected counties: Dolj, Tulcea, Constanta, Gorj, Calarasi, Caras-Severin, Mehedinti and Braila. The counties of Dolj, Tulcea, Constanta and Calarasi received the greatest quantity of relief items as they were also the counties with the biggest number of affected persons.

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The RRC was particularly concerned with the situation in the Danube Delta area (Tulcea county) where approximately 800 people were evacuated to open areas and river barges. These areas were accessible only by boats.

At the end of July 2006 it was decided to focus on food parcel distribution for the coming months, with the balance of funds received through the emergency appeal. Although the floods situation was stabilized, it did not diminish the needs of communities who continued to be displaced as their homes collapsed or were damaged by stagnant water. Some were expected to remain in camps for a long period of time as the government decided to stop direct support to reconstruction. With crops and harvests being destroyed, sources of income were jeopardized. RRC considered these factors as well as the needs of people who have fallen outside the government's relief net. This constituted regular delivery of food and hygiene parcels, as well as longer term shelter and other non food items.

During October 2006 – April 2007, humanitarian assistance continued in the counties of Dolj and Tulcea. The procurement was done at branch level with the funds received through the emergency appeal. The process was closely monitored by RRC headquarters ensuring that the standards were maintained. The assistance, consisting of food parcels/rations, was distributed as follows:

Dolj county

Communities	Distributed food parcels
Bechet	548
Carna	2,835
Macesul de Jos	2,389
Negoi	706
Total	6,478

Tulcea county

Communities	Food rations/beneficiaries
Ceatalchioi	44
Ilganii de Sus	87
Ostrov	612
Patlageanca	37
Plauru	165
Tulcea	35
Vulturu	96
Total	1,076

A total of 300 pairs of boots were also distributed to beneficiaries from affected communities in both counties.

RRC has positioned three boats donated by the German Red Cross in Tulcea to facilitate relief distributions along the Danube Delta.

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The Romanian Red Cross received a high volume of bilateral in-kind donations:

National society	Type of assistance	No. of beneficiaries	County
Belgian Red Cross ¹	Tents	31	Dolj
Turkish Red Crescent	Water disinfection kits	12	Calarasi
		12	Tulcea
		12	Dolj
	Blankets	750	Calarasi
		2,000	Dolj
	Hygiene packs	524	Calarasi
		500	Dolj
	Water bottles	7,240	Calarasi
		1,400	Dolj
Swiss Red Cross	Tarpaulins	250	Tulcea
		200	Dolj
	Tents	170	Dolj
		30	Tulcea
German Red Cross	Hygiene packs (children)	450	Tulcea
		100	Calarasi
		300	Dolj
		300	Bacau
		300	Vrancea
		200	Bistrita
		300	Botosani
		400	Suceava
	Hygiene packs (adults) ²	750	Tulcea
		4,950	Dolj
	1,500	Calarasi	

The majority of in-kind contributions received were distributed in disaster-affected areas, and the rest were used for replenishing stocks in the central and regional warehouses (depleted during the first phase of response). Replenishment of stocks in branch warehouses was also done in April 2007.

¹ Tents from Belgian RC were received outside the appeal.

² The same quantities (as reported) were directly distributed (in a second round of distribution) to affected communities by RRC branches.

Shelter

Objective 1: To provide housing in tents for evacuated persons for an initial period of three months.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

The general shelter situation in camps was satisfactory, with the Government providing a combination of community and family tents as well as some containers for the affected population. Those housed in public buildings were also receiving adequate shelter. Many requested for tarpaulins to cover their belongings.

By the beginning of July 2006, a further 100 family tents had been distributed in Rast (Dolj county) to people who received land for reconstruction of their houses and who therefore decided to leave the camp.

In Rast, one of the camps predominantly used Red Cross tents. In the 2005 flood operation, the RRC procured 140 containers using funds from local donors and continue providing shelter to families in six counties who were affected. The containers, complete with heating and electricity, were expected to free up in August 2006. The RRC transferred 60 of those containers for use by those displaced in 2006 for a longer period to fulfill their winterization needs.

Water and Sanitation

Objective 1: Population in the affected areas of Romanian counties Dolj, Calarasi, Constanta and Tulcea has access to safe water and sanitation and is reached by hygiene promotion, thereby preventing excess of morbidity and mortality as a result of the disaster.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Technical expertise from the International Federation was channelled into this sector as RRC lacks capacity in this area. With an RDRT member and International Federation water and sanitation delegate acting as catalyst for this project, the Romanian Red Cross was able to move ahead according to schedule. The focus was on coordination of the installation of water/sanitation facilities (latrines and showers) in Dolj and Calarasi counties, as well as the development of hygiene promotion and training materials.

The construction of 52 latrines according to SPHERE standards in Rast camp was completed, in close cooperation with the local community. The new latrines successfully addressed questions of sustainability. The project fulfilled a need expressed by the local municipality and community, with the work entrusted to a village foreman and the Red Cross only funding the materials. The latrines were built to be easily reassembled and disassembled, and it was expected that the community will relocate the structures when they move to their new land plots.

Prior to the construction, the water/sanitation delegate surveyed the pit latrines in the area and ensured the Red Cross designs were exacting and appropriate to local use, without being overly complicated and therefore inexpensive to build or maintain. The local community was satisfied with the design, regularly used the newly built latrines and was maintaining them during the course of the operation. The construction of 20 showers was also completed. The project was replicated in Calarasi, where construction of 21 relevant facilities was completed by mid August 2006.

Based on results of the health assessment conducted by a combined RRC/IFRC team, the operation included a hygiene promotion component in selected counties in cooperation with RRC headquarters/branch staff and volunteers. The concept and plan of action was developed together with RRC. Campaign materials, including simple messages of basic safe hygiene, were designed and printed. The materials were compiled with the support of RRC communications and public relations (PR) officers, together with staff members of the Emergency Situations Management Department. During the interagency coordination meeting hosted by RRC in June 2006, the participating non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were invited to contribute their expertise to the design of the campaign materials. In order to build longer term capacity of local communities, the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) training manual was translated to Romanian, in order to support the planned training of trainers, which will be cascaded down from branch to community level and ensure that the safe hygiene messages are being disseminated in the target communities. The campaign message will be disseminated

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quickly through public presentations, information materials and posters. A funding proposal for this project was submitted to a major local donor, unfortunately with no result to date. Even if the project is not funded this year, the Romanian RC would prepare the training kits and train the volunteers.

The RDRT member with a water/sanitation profile ended his mission at the beginning of June 2006, with follow up of facilities' installation carried out by the RDRT team leader, together with the water/sanitation delegate and RRC staff. Water/sanitation delegate completed his mission at the end of July 2006.

Federation Coordination

Upon request received from the Romanian Red Cross, the Federation Secretariat deployed a joint FACT/RDRT team on 21 April 2006, which worked with the national society to conduct assessments, assist in coordination and develop and implement a plan of action. Consequently, initial assessment findings facilitated the launch of an international appeal on 29 April, endorsed by the RRC, to assist 13,000 beneficiaries for a period of three months with a budget of CHF 2,427,200. Prioritizing four of the eight counties assisted by the RRC (Dolj, Calarasi, Constanta and Tulcea), the appeal was looking for funds to address needs in the areas of emergency relief, shelter, water and sanitation that included a hygiene promotion component. The Romanian Red Cross also received many direct bilateral contributions from Austrian, Belgian, German and Turkish national societies.



The International Federation and RRC worked in coordination to deliver humanitarian assistance to the counties most affected by floods

Working with International Federation delegates and RDRT members, the RRC set up teams that were deployed on the field, while continuing to deliver humanitarian assistance to the counties most affected by floods through its network of branches and 6,000 volunteers.

All FACT members left the country at the end of May 2006. Follow up support continued through the RDRT, with water and sanitation and relief profiles together with an international delegate for water and sanitation/hygiene promotion issues.

RDRT members and water/sanitation delegate completed their missions at the end of July 2006. RRC continued the operation with the support of the Regional Delegation in Budapest, with no further RDRT missions.

National Society Capacity Building

Capacities at RRC headquarters and branch level were limited, with each staff member performing a variety of duties related to different sectors. Filling the disaster management (DM) coordinator position was important, following the departure of the previous DM coordinator in mid June 2006. A part time logistician provided much needed support to the food parcel distribution element of the operation. A number of other key positions were also open, related to hygiene promotion, organisational development (OD) and administration. Representatives of the regional delegation were supporting in the recruitment processes – in screening potential candidates and assisting in interviews. Technical expertise and field methods were shared, where possible, with RRC staff and volunteers.

In order to support the RRC in evaluating its potential in DM at branch level for the purpose to improve and develop the functioning of its DM structure, the Swiss Red Cross agreed with Regional Delegation in Budapest to send a Swiss RC Delegate to Romania as from October 2006 for a period of 6 months. The position was financed jointly by Swiss RC and the International Federation.

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The Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) of the RRC took place in October – December 2006 with a purpose to gather the latest data on the potential of all 47 RRC branches and their activities in the field of DM.

Two workshops on OD topics combined with DM and finance for branch directors and key staff from RRC headquarters took place at the end of 2006.

The position of DM coordinator was fulfilled only in March 2007.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

During the relief operation RRC staff organised communication initiatives, including press releases, interviews and field visits. The PR officer was closely involved in the development of materials for the hygiene promotion information campaign to ensure relevant and simple messages and dissemination methods, which correspond to local habits.

Lessons learned

The lack of an experienced DM person and full time employed logistician at the RRC headquarters level led to difficulties in planning and coordinating the relief operation. Experienced International Federation delegates and RDRT members supported the RRC with different technical expertise during the operation and in capacity building activities.

It is essential that the RRC has a long-term solution for the DM and logistics positions within the headquarters. With this, the national society will be able to create a proper DM department and a plan on how to increase disaster preparedness and response capacities at all levels.

Due to some problems experienced with the first round of food parcels procurement during the first month of the operation (quality of food and packaging, heaviness of the parcel and difficulty for beneficiaries to carry away), and also to allow more flexibility for different branches to decide on the content of the parcel, it was decided that procurement will take place at branch level. The process was monitored by the headquarters. Branch level purchase proved to be a better solution bringing advantages such as lower prices, lower transport costs and easier communication with suppliers.

Similar to last year's floods operation in Romania, the RRC received a high volume of bilateral in-kind donations instead of through the appeal. In-kind donations do not support additional distribution costs such as logistics and human resources, which includes transportation and per diem of volunteers. The International Federation Secretariat has had several RDRT and delegates on hand to assist the RRC on some of these capacities, but due to the financial constraints, the larger part of the team left by the end of May 2006.

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

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Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/04-2007/06
Budget Timeframe	2006/04-2007/03
Appeal	mdrro001
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		631,853				631,853
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
American Red Cross		6,165				6,165
British Red Cross		91,160				91,160
Japanese Red Cross		79,219				79,219
Liechtenstein Red Cross		20,125				20,125
Monaco Red Cross		15,700				15,700
Netherlands Red Cross		121,586				121,586
Swiss Red Cross		7,313				7,313
C1. Cash contributions		341,267				341,267
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
DREF		168,217				168,217
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or		168,217				168,217
<u>Inkind Goods & Transport</u>						
Other		118,012				118,012
C4. Inkind Goods & Transport		118,012				118,012
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
Netherlands Red Cross		4,400				4,400
C5. Inkind Personnel		4,400				4,400
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		631,896				631,896
D. Total Funding = B + C		631,896				631,896

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		631,896				631,896
E. Expenditure		-619,003				-619,003
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		12,893				12,893

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Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/04-2007/06
Budget Timeframe	2006/04-2007/03
Appeal	mdrro001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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)		631,853					631,853	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	118,700		113,214				113,214	5,486
Clothing & textiles	500		466				466	34
Food	236,368		239,576				239,576	-3,208
Water & Sanitation	7,733		7,733				7,733	0
Other Supplies & Services	10,179		10,169				10,169	11
Total Supplies	373,480		371,159				371,159	2,321
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	3,130		3,130				3,130	0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	3,130		3,130				3,130	0
Transport & Storage								
Storage	1,793		1,793				1,793	0
Distribution & Monitoring	13,074		7,712				7,712	5,362
Transport & Vehicle Costs	14,038		22,567				22,567	-8,530
Total Transport & Storage	28,904		32,072				32,072	-3,168
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	47,039		17,320				17,320	29,719
Delegate Benefits	5,333							5,333
Regionally Deployed Staff	7,609		7,609				7,609	0
National Staff	1,432		1,432				1,432	0
National Society Staff	8,573		9,446				9,446	-874
Consultants	1,153		36,153				36,153	-35,000
Total Personnel Expenditures	71,138		71,960				71,960	-822
General Expenditure								
Travel	83,661		83,661				83,661	0
Information & Public Relation	1,239		1,239				1,239	0
Office Costs	10,000		9,211				9,211	789
Communications	7,731		5,578				5,578	2,153
Financial Charges	2,000		1,611				1,611	389
Other General Expenses	9,500							9,500
Total General Expenditure	114,131		101,300				101,300	12,831
Program Support								
Program Support	41,070		39,383				39,383	1,687
Total Program Support	41,070		39,383				39,383	1,687
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	631,853		619,003				619,003	12,850
VARIANCE (C - D)			12,850				12,850	