

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Serbia: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRRS001
GLIDE n° FL-2007-000217-SRB
30 November, 2007

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 111,080 (USD 99,152 or EUR 67,203) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross of Serbia in delivering immediate assistance to some 4,200 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: This operation is to support the Red Cross of Serbia provide immediate food and hygiene assistance to the population in the south-eastern part of Serbia whose houses have been damaged by flash-floods. The people affected in these regions will receive food, fresh water and help with repairing the damage done to their property.



Flooded streets of Lebane. Source: www.lebane.com

This operation is expected to be implemented over two months, and will therefore be completed by February 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by April 2008).

[<click here for the DREF budget and here for contact details>](#)

The situation

After heavy rains on 25 and 26 November 2007, the southern and south-eastern part of Serbia has suffered flash-floods from the rivers of Lužnica, Vlasina, Jablanica, Rogoz, Nišava, Južna Morava, Crvena reka and Pusta reka. The following municipalities reported damage, in both urban and rural parts of their territory: Pirot, Babušnica, Vlasotince, Leskovac, Lebane, Doljevac, Dimitrovgrad and Bela Palanka. The floods destroyed several bridges connecting regional and local roads, but alternative means of communication and commutation still exist and the distribution of goods is still possible.

There were no casualties but there is a lot of damage to property. This part of Serbia is one of the poorest areas with a predominantly older population.

The following table shows some essential data on the damage done and about the population affected according to a joint field assessment including the Red Cross of Serbia:

	Municipality	Settlement/ village	Population	Number of flooded houses	Number of people affected
	PIROT	Naselje Tanasko Rajić		500	1,500
		Naselje Nova Mala			
		Naselje prisjanski put			
		Selo Barje Čiflik		50	150
		Selo Blato		20	60
		Selo Kostor		20	60
PIROT Total				590	1,770
	BABUŠNICA	Babušnica	4,500	1,500	4,000
		Izvor	11,200		
		Donji Striževac			
		Draginac			
		Gorčince			
	Ljuberadja				
BABUŠNICA Total			15,700	1,500	4,000
	VLASOTINCE	Vlasotince	36,000	1,300	3,900
		Selo Svodje			
		Selo Boljare			
		Selo Kruševica			
		Selo Manastirište			
		Selo Šišava			
		Selo Stajkovce			
		Selo Gložane			
VLASOTINCE Total				1,300	3,900
	LESKOVAC	Leskovac	76,000	150	750
	LEBANE	Selo Pertat	20,000	100	300
		Selo Bošnjac		80	240
		Selo Konjin		50	150
LEBANE Total				230	690
	DOLJEVAC	Selo Pukovac	21,000	80	240
		Selo Šainovac		30	120
		Selo Belotinac		40	120
DOLJEVAC Total				150	480
	DIMITROVGRAD	Assessment ongoing			
	BELA PALANKA		17,000	260	780
Grand Total				4,180	12,370

The population was evacuated only in Vlasotince municipality, where the need was identified. A total of 172 Roma people were evacuated from their settlement and 122 of them now temporarily reside in private accommodation while 50 are in a collective centre. In other municipalities there was no need for evacuation as the water level allows for accommodation in flooded areas, albeit with certain risks.

The municipalities of Vlasotince and Babušnica had their authorities declare a state of emergency. The water is receding, but in the Vlasina region there is a problem with underground waters slowing down the recession and keeping the basements of houses flooded.

In response to the situation the government of Serbia has made a provision of 48,000,000 dinars (approximately 550,000 Euro) to be used to assist the affected areas with infrastructure repairs and other needs of the population.

Coordination and partnerships

All the affected municipalities have mobilized the existing crisis headquarters which in all cases involve secretaries of the municipal Red Cross branches. The Red Cross of Serbia coordinates the work of its municipal branches and at the same time coordinates its activities with the Republic Civil Protection headquarters. The Federation representation in Belgrade has monitored the situation and offered assistance to the National Society in mobilizing DREF funding.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Red Cross teams in all of the affected municipalities have taken part and are still actively participating in the assessment of the damage and the needs of the affected population, especially the most vulnerable people. The Red Cross of Serbia has started mobilizing its disaster preparedness stocks. The previous information bulletin, posted on 28 November, showed the goods distributed on 27 November. The following table provides information on the goods distributed on 29 and 30 November.

Item	29 November 2007				30 November 2007				Total (29 and 30/11/2007)
	NIŠ	LESKOVAC	LEBANE	Total (29/11/2007.)	To the region				
Water tank, 1200 l	3	2	-	5	5				15
Family hygiene parcel	-	50	100	150	50				200
Rubber boots	-	50	100	150	50				200
Rain coat	-	-	12	12	12				24
Dehumidifier	-	-	-	-	15				15
Canned meat 150g	-	-	300	300	-				300
Canned meat pate 150g	-		300	300	-				300
Canned fish 125gr	-		300	300	-				300
Red Cross of Serbia Uniform	-	-	12	12	12				24
Jerry cans 15 l	-	40	-	40	-				40
Electric water pump	-	-	-	-	35				35

The relief assistance is being provided to the most vulnerable (those on social welfare assistance, older people, ill and handicapped people and large families). Water tanks are being used to provide drinking water to the population until the existing water infrastructure is declared safe to use.

The needs

The proposed intervention aims at providing immediate assistance to the affected population, as well as extended assistance to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable through the next two months. According to an assessment by the Red Cross of Serbia (in cooperation with the local crisis headquarters) there is an estimated 1,400 families, or 4,200 people, in need of assistance throughout all the municipalities. The particularly vulnerable groups targeted by this intervention are:

- older households,
- bigger/poorer families, and
- families or people with special needs.

This particularly vulnerable population is mostly living in their own houses for the moment, but their houses are damaged by water and their possessions/food reserves have been lost. Moreover, they still have to struggle with the lack of drinking water.

The proposed operation

The most vulnerable among the population in the affected areas will receive food (canned meat and fish as well as ready-to-eat meals) and hygiene (hygiene parcels, disinfectants) relief assistance, and other items to help them with the mitigation of the damage made to their households (raincoats, rubber boots, water pumps, disinfectants). In addition, water tanks and jerry cans will be provided to ensure the availability of fresh water until the existing water infrastructure is safe to use again.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: The 1,400 vulnerable families in the affected area are provided with canned food to assist them through the first several days of coping with the damage done to their households, until they are able to prepare their own food again.

Activities planned:

- Assessment of needs;
- Creation of beneficiary lists;
- Distribution of food;
- Monitoring.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, through the use of water tanks and jerry cans, as well as hygiene promotion through special leaflets provided to 1,400 families in the affected area, until the existing water infrastructure is safe to use again.

Activities planned:

- Assessment of needs;
- Provision of safe water to 1,400 families in the affected area;
- Provision of potable water and hygiene promotion for 1,400 families in the affected area.

Provision of hygiene items

Objective: The risk of an outbreak of infectious diseases is reduced through provision of hygiene parcels to 1,400 families in the affected area.

Activities planned:

- Assessment of needs;
- Creation of beneficiary lists;
- Distribution of hygiene parcels;
- Monitoring.

Assistance with draining water

Objective: To assist with the mitigation of damage made to the houses, the houses where the basements are still filled with water are equipped with electrical water and mud pumps.

Activities planned:

- Assessment of needs (involving an expert to advise on the use of pumps);
- Creation of priority lists;
- Provision of pumps;
- Monitoring.

The following table presents the needs and the amount of requested funding in Swiss francs:

Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	TOTAL
Supplies				
Rubber Boots	1,500	Pair	11.67	17,500
Meat Cans	10,000	Piece	0.71	7,100
Meat Pate	10,000	Piece	0.57	5,700
Fish Cans	10,000	Piece	0.71	7,100
Ready to Eat Meals	10,000	Piece	2.2	22,000
Disinfectant (Concentrate 1:20)	1,500	Kilogram	5	7,500
Water Tank (1,000 litres)	5	Piece	1,840	9,200
Water Pump	10	Piece	150	1,500
Water Pump (40 PCS / RCS)	40	Piece	80	3,200
Hygiene Parcels (4.2 kg)	2000	Piece	6.5	13,000
Packaging / Hygiene Parcels				850
Sub-Total				94,650
Transport & Distribution				
Distribution of Goods / RC Serbia				2,300
Fuel / DM & Relief Coordinator				150
Geneva Costs				
Program Management Support (6.5%)				7,220
Personnel				
DM & Relief Coordinator				2,110
National Society Staff Field Coordinator				1,000
Information & General Administration				
Emergency /Hygiene Leaflets, Communication				3,650
TOTAL CHF				111,080

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Serbia: Red Cross of Serbia, Vesna Milenović, Secretary General, phone: +381 11 30 32 125, email: secretary@redcross.org.yu
- In the Central European Regional Representation: Slobodanka Ćurić, Regional Disaster Management Coordinator, Budapest, phone: +36 1 248 3300, fax: +36 1 248 33 22, email: slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org
- In the Europe Zone Office: Leon Prop, Deputy Head of Zone, Budapest, phone: + 36 1 248 3300, fax: +36 1 248 3322, email: leon.prop@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Linda A. Stops, Operations Coordinator, phone: +41 22 730 4300, fax: +41 22 733 0395, email: linda.stops@ifrc.org

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