

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Albania: Explosions

**DREF operation n° MDRAL001
GLIDE n° AC-2008-000036-ALB
19 March, 2008**

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 248,294 (USD 236,428 or EUR 155,184) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,200 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Following a series of explosions near the Albanian capital of Tirana on 15 and 16 March, 296 people have been injured and the population of three villages (around 4,000 people) affected.

The operation aims to provide immediate support to the most affected people by distributing basic food and non-food items.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 19 June 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 19 September 2008).



The owner of a totally destroyed house is visited by a Red Cross volunteer in the village of Gerdec. Photo: Albanian Red Cross

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Massive explosions near the Albanian capital of Tirana on 15 March 2008, have seriously affected the three villages of Gerdec, Marqinet 1 and Marqinet 2 and injured almost 300 people. Explosions continued for many hours until 14:00 on 16 March close to the village of Gerdec, 16 kilometres from Tirana. Damage was also reported in the neighbouring communities of Vora, Marikaj and Preze.

In the three most affected villages, with a population of 4,000, 90 per cent of the population have been evacuated and accommodated with their relatives living in the nearby area. As for 19 March, some 367 people, mainly women and children, are accommodated in two collective army residences, one in Tirana and the other one in Durres. The number of people accommodated is increasing every day.

According to information received from the local authorities a number of buildings, including homes, have been totally destroyed. Some 1,680 buildings situated close to the explosion area are damaged, 315 of them are totally destroyed and six schools are partially damaged. The electricity power was cut in the whole affected area for three days.

Due to the ongoing high risk of further explosions, it is not possible for anyone except the police and army special forces to enter the affected area. They continue with the search and rescue operation. Preliminary information concerning the impact of the explosion shows the following:

- 17 people are confirmed dead
- 10 people are considered as missing
- 296 people are injured, 16 of them seriously

The government has declared a state of emergency for this area and emergency commissions have been set up at central and local level.

Coordination and partnerships

The Albanian Red Cross's disaster response team has been working jointly with the state emergency commissions to conduct a preliminary assessment of the needs in the field. Ten groups made of experts from the government and the Albanian Red Cross – one in each group – visited the affected area. The Albanian Red Cross also works closely with the hospitals where injured people are given medical assistance and with the army at its collective centres where affected people are temporarily accommodated. The national media has been regularly updated on the Albanian Red Cross actions.

An emergency management group lead by the secretary general of the Albanian Red Cross was set up at the headquarters of the National Society. This group is in a permanent contact with the deputy minister of the Interior Ministry and with the Directorate of Emergencies.

The German Red Cross has sent medical assistance to the Albanian Red Cross – 26 kg of dressing material and 2,000 bottles of Albumin (50 ml bottles) which has been immediately transferred to the hospitals in Tirana. The Austrian Red Cross offered blood, medicine and ambulance staff if required. The Red Cross Societies of Bulgaria, Macedonia and Montenegro offered help as well. The emergency stocks of the Red Cross Society of Montenegro will be used to respond to the needs in Albania, whilst the DREF allocation will be partly used to replenish these stocks of the Red Cross Society of Montenegro. This partnership between the central European National Societies is facilitated by a database including a virtual warehouse, which connects all National Societies and helps them to better cooperate and assist each other in case of emergency. The database gives information on the disaster management capacity within the region, about the general contact details for each National Society, disaster management departments and staff, regional disaster response team members and their skills, the logistics capacity within the societies, emergency stocks and the quantity which could be given to the neighbouring societies when needed. Also the strong network of the National Societies' disaster management coordinators strengthens the commitment of these societies to help each other.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In accordance with the national disaster plan, and in coordination with the emergency governmental structure, the Albanian Red Cross has been following the situation closely, and responded to the most urgent needs of the affected families by undertaking the following actions:

- Volunteer teams from the Red Cross branches of Tirana and Durrës were mobilized and sent to the hospitals to assist the injured people and their families. These volunteer groups have provided first aid for the injured people, and psychological support for their families that were in shock. At the same time, they provided information on missing people, while volunteers with medical backgrounds assisted the medical staff during voluntary blood donation sessions organized by the Albanian Red Cross in close cooperation with the hospitals.
- An appeal was released for voluntary blood donors through the media for the communities and institutions at national level. The local branches of Gjirokastra, Korçë, Berat and Durrës have conducted a public campaign for blood donations.
- Light food and water has been distributed to the members of the injured families mostly in hospital premises by volunteers of the Tirana branch.

- The Red Cross branch of Durres distributed clothes and detergents for 139 persons in the collective centre in Durres. The clothes were donated by members of the community of Durres as a response to the appeal made by the local branch.
- Non-food items, available from the Albanian Red Cross's emergency response stocks (blankets, hygiene items, plastic sheeting and kitchen sets) have been distributed for the 30 most affected families. These distributed items will be replenished through this DREF allocation.
- Leaflets related to mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) awareness have been distributed in the affected areas by volunteers of Tirana branch.

The Albanian Red Cross has also launched a fund-raising campaign. In response to this, the German Red Cross, through the German Embassy in Tirana, allocated the above mentioned medical items.

The needs

According to the field visits and assessments conducted by Albanian Red Cross on 18 March, there is a significant need for basic food and non-food items among the affected population.

The assessments show that 3,200 people (850 families) are in immediate need of support in the three most affected villages of Gerdec, Marqinet 1 and Marqinet 2.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and non-food items)

Objective: To provide immediate assistance in the form of basic food and non-food items to 3,200 beneficiaries in the three most affected villages for a period of three months.

Activities planned:

- Compile the final lists of beneficiaries together with the local management commission and the local authorities
- Procure and deliver relief supplies to the beneficiaries
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and report on the relief distributions

The beneficiaries were selected according to the following criteria:

- Families with a lost member
- Families whose houses are totally damaged
- Families whose houses are partially damaged

The table below shows the number of people benefiting from the distribution of food and non-food items per targeted areas:

Target Area	Number of beneficiaries
Gerdec	1,230
Marqinet 1	1,350
Marqinet 2	620

Each food package contains the following items for one month:

- 20 kg of wheat flour
- 3 kg of rice
- 3 litres of vegetable oil
- 3 kg of sugar
- 5 kg of white beans

The following non-food items will be distributed to each family.

- 5 blankets
- 2 hygiene kits

- 2 plastic sheeting
- 8 pieces of soap
- 2 kg of washing powder
- 1 kitchen set per family

The non-food items will be distributed from the Albanian Red Cross's emergency stock and these items, except the kitchen sets, will be replenished later on. The basic food will be purchased from the supplier with whom Albanian Red Cross has a pre-agreement signed.

Budget

Item	Unit	quantity /per month	Assistance/ Per month	Unit price/ALL	Total In ALL	Total in Euro	Total in CHF
Supplies						78,263.75	125,222.00
Wheat flour	Kg	17,000	3	70	3,570,000	29,750.00	47,600.00
Rice	Kg	2,550	3	71	543,150	4,526.25	7,242.00
Vegetable oil	liter	4,250	3	221	2,817,750	23,481.25	37,570.00
Sugar	Kg	2,550	3	55	420,750	3,506.25	5,610.00
White beans	Kg	4,250	3	160	2,040,000	17,000.00	27,200.00
Non-food items						52,733.33	84,373.33
Blanket	pcs	3,200	1	1,000	3,200,000	26,666.67	42,666.67
Hygiene kit	pcs	1,700	1	500	850,000	7,083.33	11,333.33
Plastic sheeting	pcs	850	1	600	510,000	4,250.00	6,800.00
Soap	pcs	6,800	3	20	408,000	3,400.00	5,440.00
Mattresses	pcs	1,700	1	800	1,360,000	11,333.33	18,133.33
Transport & distribution						7,300.00	11,680.00
Transport cost	month	3		250,000	750,000	6,250.00	10,000.00
Loading-unloading	ton	40	3	300	36,000	300.00	480.00
Monitoring and evaluation	month	3		30,000	90,000	750.00	1,200.00
Personnel						4,375.00	7,000.00
DP Coordinator	month	3		95,000	285,000	2,375.00	3,800.00
Volunteer motivation	person	10	30	800	240,000	2,000.00	3,200.00
Administration						2,425.00	3,880.00
Administrative cost	month	3		97,000	291,000	2,425.00	3,880.00
Sub-total						145,097.08	232,155.33
PSR						10,086.96	16,139.14
Grand Total						155,184.04	248,294.47

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 the Albanian Red Cross Society, Zamir Muca, Secretary General, phone: + 355 42 57 532, email: zmuca@kksh.org.al
- In the Regional Representation for Central Europe and Southern Caucasus: Elias Ghanem, Regional Representative, phone: + 36 1 248 33 00, fax: + 36 1 248 33 22, email: elias.ghanem@ifrc.org
- In the Europe Zone Office, Budapest, Slobodanka Curic, Disaster Management Coordinator, phone: + 36 1 248 33 05; fax: + 36 1 248 33 22; email: slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Linda A. Stops, Operations Coordinator, phone: +41 22 730 4300, fax: +41 22 733 0395, email: linda.stops@ifrc.org

[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

OVERVIEW OF MUNITIONS DEPOT EXPLOSION - AFFECTED AREA OF GERDEC, ALBANIA

This map illustrates the approximate location of the munitions depot explosions and fire as detected by the MODIS Aqua satellite at 11:50 UTC on 15 March 2008. This MODIS-detected site of active fire is accurate within a 1 square kilometer zone.

**Active Fire Location
Detected by MODIS
Aqua Satellite (11:50
UTC - 15 March 2008)**

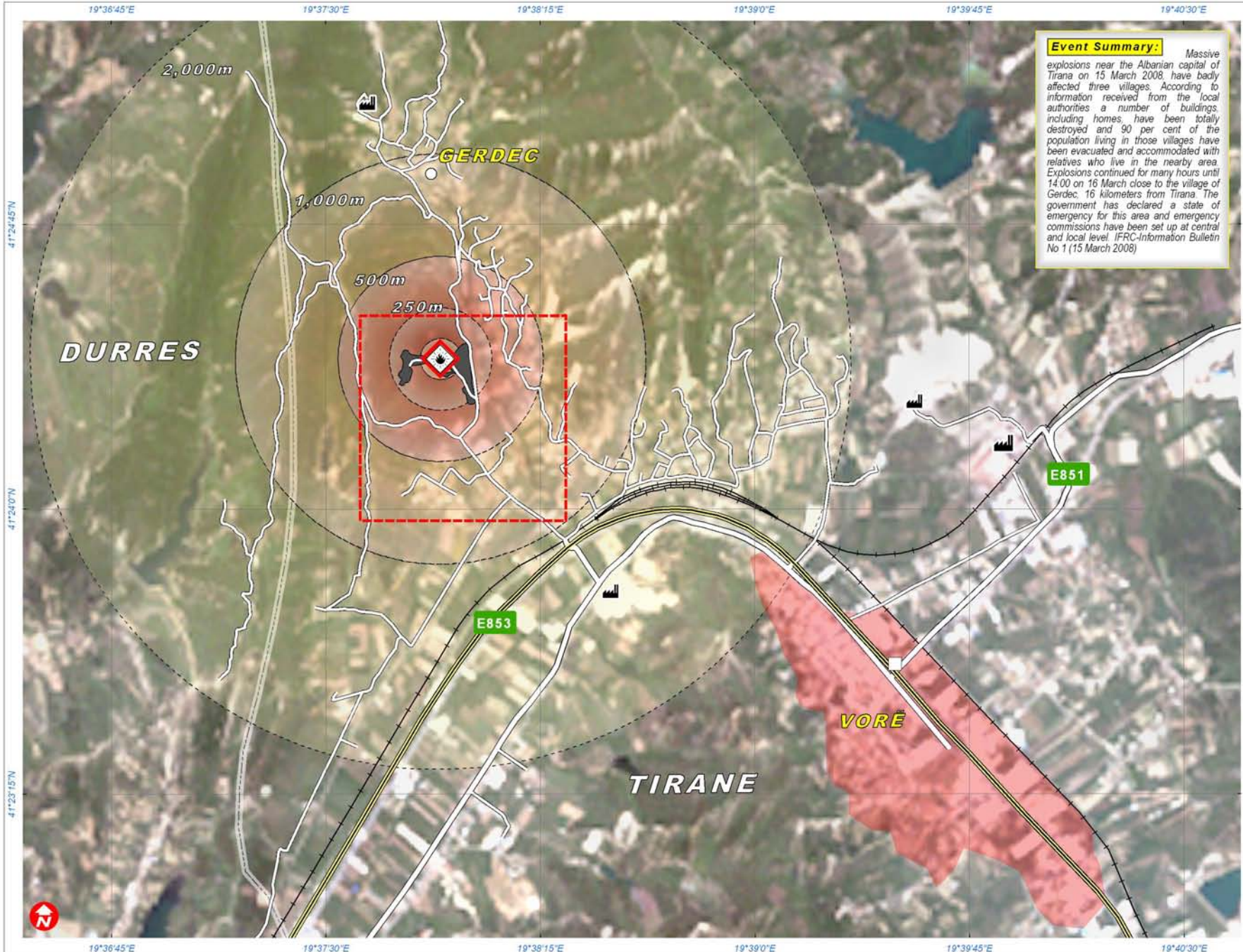
Explosion

16 March 2008

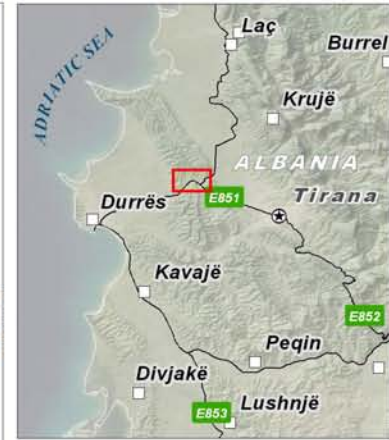
Version 1.0

Glide No:

AC-2008-000036-ALB



Event Summary: Massive explosions near the Albanian capital of Tirana on 15 March 2008, have badly affected three villages. According to information received from the local authorities a number of buildings, including homes, have been totally destroyed and 90 per cent of the population living in those villages have been evacuated and accommodated with relatives who live in the nearby area. Explosions continued for many hours until 14:00 on 16 March close to the village of Gerdec, 16 kilometers from Tirana. The government has declared a state of emergency for this area and emergency commissions have been set up at central and local level. IFRC-Information Bulletin No 1 (15 March 2008)



Map Legend

- Capital
- City / Large Town
- Town / Village
- Highway
- Main Road
- Local Road
- Urban Zone / Built-Up Area
- Munitions Depot Area
- MODIS Detected Active Fire Area
- Munitions Depot
- Industrial Facility
- Airport
- Railroad
- Province Boundary

Approximate Distance Zones from Blast Site(s):

- 250 m
- 500 m
- 1,000 m
- 2,000 m

Map Scale for A4: 1:26,000

Meters: 0 125 250 500 750 1,000

Fire Data MODIS Aqua (NASA)
 Fire Dates 11:50 UTC - 15 March 2007
 Detection Resolution Accurate within 1km
 Satellite Image QuickBird Browse (14m)
 Image Copyright Digital Globe (2007)
 Road Data ESRI & Google Earth
 GIS Data NGA, USGS, ESRI
 Map Production UNOSAT (16 March 2008)
 Projection Lambert Conformal Conic
 Datum WGS 1984

The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown here are not warranted to be error-free nor do they imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. This map was produced by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Operational Satellite Applications Program (UNOSAT). UNOSAT provides satellite imagery & related geographic information to UN humanitarian & development agencies & their implementing partners.

UNOSAT

satellite solutions for all

Contact Information: info@unosat.org
 24/7 Hotline: +41 76 487 4998 www.unosat.org