

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRBA003
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000044-BIH
17 February, 2009

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 100,000 (USD 86,374 or EUR 66,906) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,600 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Heavy rainfall in the second half of January and early February has caused flooding in southern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Food reserves have been destroyed and water sources are contaminated, and vast areas of cultivated land are flooded. The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina will support the affected population with food and non-food items in order to overcome the most urgent needs.

This operation is expected to be implemented over one month, and will therefore be completed by 17 March, 2009; a Final Report will be made available by 17 June 2009.



Photo 1: Flooded house in Trebinje. **Photo:** Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina

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

The situation

Heavy rainfall from January to early February has caused flooding in southern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The vast water masses have severely affected the population in the municipalities of Trebinje, Popovo polje, Ravno, Neum and Svitava. It is estimated that some 2,600 people from 765 families are affected, and almost 170 houses have been flooded. The most acute needs are for food, water and hygiene.

Following heavy rainfall in southern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina lake Bilečko and Trebišnjica river have flooded vast areas. The power plants "Grančarevo", "Dubrovnik" and "Čapljina" are operating at full capacity in order to take away the vast water masses. However, the Grančarevo power plant has had to release water from its dams due to the water level, and together with underground water, this resulted in Trebišnjica river flooding areas downstream of Trebinje, particularly Popovo polje and downstream towards Čapljina. Some 90 per cent of Popovo polje is currently flooded and settlements in Trebinje and Ravno are affected.

In terms of needs and damages the most acute problem is the loss of food supplies and access to clean drinking water. In addition almost 170 houses have been affected with cellars and ground floors flooded, and food and other household items have been destroyed. Neum municipality has declared a state of emergency due to comprehensive damages.

The situation may have serious longer-term consequences as huge areas of cultivated land have been flooded. In the municipalities of Ravno and Popovo polje several hundreds hectares of cultivated land sown with wheat, barley, beans, potatoes and lettuce are flooded. In addition orchards and vineyards are affected. As a result all planted seeds have been destroyed and limited or no harvest is expected in the longer-term.

The floods have also affected communication as roads are affected and the only bridge accessible in the area is the one connecting Ravno and Ljubinje. Weather forecasts predict more rain in the time to come.

Coordination and partnerships

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is cooperating with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in assessing and monitoring the situation. The National Society has conducted common assessments with the civil protection. Furthermore liaison with the civil defense department for joint identification of beneficiaries will be initiated. The latter will also contribute to building cooperation and stronger relations between the National Society and the civil defense.

The National Society will apply its own resources and capacities mainly through its volunteers and extensive logistics experience. However, local Red Cross resources are insufficient, thus the National Society has requested support from the International Federation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The National Society has been supported by the International Federation in visiting the field to collect information about the extent of the disaster and to carry out need assessments among the affected population.

Civil protection units have already provided some assistance to the affected population. Fire fighters are currently engaged in pumping water from underground premises and providing drinking water for the population in one part of Trebinje municipality. The services provided are, however, not sufficient to meet all needs for drinking water in the exposed areas.

Representatives from the National Society are constantly visiting the affected areas and monitoring the situation together with the civil protection. Special attention is paid to those who are socially vulnerable and not able to work.

A proper assessment of the agricultural area in Trebinje region has not yet been undertaken by the authorities. Thus the National Society in cooperation with the International Federation has consulted agriculture expertise in conducting the assessment.

The needs

Needs among the affected population are for food, water and non-food items. This includes food parcels, hygiene parcels and water. The National Society has no emergency stock available, therefore all items for the operation need to be procured. The municipalities and villages, and the number of people and families as well as houses affected are:

| Municipality | Village | No. of affected people | No. of affected families | No. of flooded houses |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Trebinje | Rastoci | 255 | 60 | 6 |
| | Otok | 100 | 35 | 3 |
| | Rupe | 65 | 31 | 3 |
| | Pridvorci | 80 | 27 | 1 |
| Popovo polje | Velicani | 82 | 28 | 2 |
| | Dračevo | 47 | 16 | 2 |
| | Drijenjani | 35 | 12 | 1 |
| | Galičići | 23 | 8 | 2 |
| | Sedlari | 39 | 13 | 3 |
| | Grmljani | 37 | 13 | 4 |
| | Zavala | 37 | 13 | 2 |
| Ravno | Ravno | 250 | 83 | 10 |
| | Velja Međa | 100 | 35 | 8 |
| | Turkovići | 40 | 13 | 4 |
| | Pečina | 30 | 10 | 5 |
| | Tručina | 120 | 50 | 20 |
| | Trebinja | 250 | 66 | 10 |
| | Čvaljina | 30 | 10 | 3 |
| Neum | Glumina | 150 | 38 | 15 |
| | Gornji Zelenikovac | 150 | 38 | 10 |
| | Donji Zelenikovac | 100 | 25 | 8 |
| | Dobri Do | 150 | 38 | 10 |
| | Hrasno | 220 | 55 | 5 |
| Svitava | Svitava | 240 | 48 | 30 |
| Total: | | 2,630 | 765 | 167 |

Table 1: Number of affected people and families and number of flooded houses in municipalities and villages in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Beneficiary selection:

The Red Cross Society aims at addressing the needs of the families that have not received support by other actors. The beneficiaries will be selected among the families who meet the following criteria:

- Families who have lost their food supplies
- Elderly and bed-ridden people over 60 living alone
- People with disabilities
- Socially endangered persons with very young children
- Self-supporting mothers

Affected people, families and houses

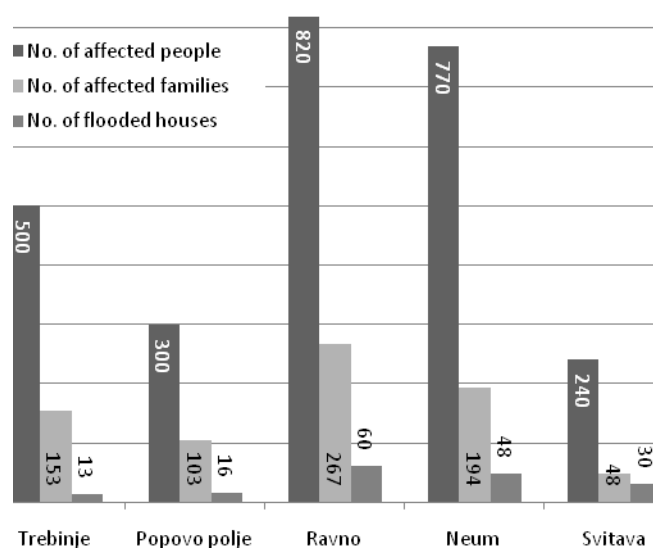


Figure 1: Number of affected people, families and houses in Trebinje, Popovo polje, Ravno, Neum and Svitava.



Photo 2: Flooded cultivated landscape in Ravno. **Photo:** Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The proposed operation

The operation aims to meet the basic needs of the 765 most affected families. These are families who have lost their food reserves, stored in basements that were flooded and who are too poor to handle the situation. The Red Cross Society will continuously monitor the situation among the affected population in order to ensure that the most vulnerable people receive support.

The National Society will assist the families and other prioritized beneficiary groups through a one-month period with basic food, water and hygiene parcels in a one-off distribution. The purpose of distributing hygiene items is to clean contaminated houses, especially basements. Since drinking water, mainly from private water wells, is not safe in some areas the Red Cross will provide families with 10 and 20 litres jerry cans to access water provided by local authorities in mobile water tanks.

The Red Cross Society will reach out to beneficiaries through Red Cross volunteer mobile teams already in place in the area. These volunteers have experience in service delivery to vulnerable people. The National Society aims to carry out a beneficiary satisfaction survey to determine follow-up, and to guide future operations.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: The 765 vulnerable families in the affected areas are provided with food parcels to cope with the loss of food supplies.

Activities planned:

- Identification and creation of beneficiary lists according to criteria and needs
- Procurement and distribution of food parcels
- Monitoring and evaluation of the relief activities and reporting on relief distributions

The National Society will distribute food parcels through its volunteers to identified beneficiaries. Food parcels will be distributed according to Federation standards.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective 1: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water and use of water pumps and jerry cans, until the existing water infrastructure is safe for usage.

Objective 2: The risk of an outbreak of infectious diseases is reduced through provision of hygiene parcels to 765 families in the affected area.

Activities planned:

- Identification and creation of beneficiary lists according to criteria and needs
- Procurement and distribution of 10 and 20 liter jerry cans for drinking water and water pumps
- Provision of safe water to 765 families in the affected area
- Provision of potable water and hygiene promotion for 1,400 families in the affected area
- Distribution of hygiene parcels
- Monitoring and evaluation of the relief activities and reporting on relief distributions

Hygiene parcels will be distributed according to Federation standards.

Dissemination

The National Society will promote Red Cross activities and improve the image of the Red Cross among the public through its volunteers in providing support to the affected population. In responding rapidly to the consequences of the floods the National Society will present itself as a responsible humanitarian actor.

Budget

| <u>APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY</u> | |
|---|-----------------|
| Bosnia Floods | Appeal Number: |
| MDRBA003 | |
| | ORIGINAL |
| <u>RELIEF NEEDS</u> | |
| Food | 35,955 |
| Water & Sanitation | 8,000 |
| Utensils & Tools | 13,770 |
| Other Supplies & Services | 18,360 |
| Total Relief Needs | 76,085 |
| <u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u> | |
| Distribution & Monitoring | 17,415 |
| <u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u> | |
| Programme Support - PSR | 6,500 |
| Total Operational Needs | 23,915 |
| Total Requested Allocation | 100,000 |

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:

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



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