

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRBA006
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000239-BIH
13 December 2010

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 emergency response. 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 218,932 (USD 222,576 or EUR 168,694) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 1450 families (5,800 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Due to the heavy rain in Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina/ Republic of Srpska, the water level in river Drina has been on a steady increase since 1st December until 3rd December, with water spilling out of the river beds and flooding the houses, buildings and agricultural land. In Bosnia and Herzegovina 5,806 households (approximately 20,000 people) have been affected by the flooding.



Flood affected village in Bijeljina. Picture taken by a Bosnia Herzegovina Red Cross

The affected municipalities are Bosanska Krupa, Domaljevac-Šamac, Orašje, Tuzla, Maglaj, Goražde, Foča-Ustikolina, Pale-Prača, Ravno, Čitluk, Čapljina, Stolac, Mostar, Trnovo, Ilidža, Novi Grad, Tomislavgrad, Drvar, Trebinje, Bileća, Nevesinje, Foča, Novo Goražde, Bratunac, Zvornik, Bijeljina including their surrounding villages. The water, spilling from the river beds has flooded the land and buildings, causing damage to living quarters and personal belongings as well as agricultural land and equipment.

The Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina has identified approximately 1,450 families (5,800 people) in need of urgent assistance with basic food, water and non-food items.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 10 March 2011 a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 10 June 2011).

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

The situation

Over the past days, Bosnia and Herzegovina has experienced heavy rainfalls (largest amount of precipitation recorded in 100 years) which resulted in massive floods on the entire territory.

According to the national authorities, the hardest hit areas are on Drina River, in Central and Eastern Herzegovina. More than 4,000 people have been evacuated. Additional damage assessments are ongoing. All government institutions are engaged in full capacity in the disaster response.

Latest projections indicate that the situation might deteriorate in the coming days due to heavy precipitation expected in Croatia which will then discharge in the Sava river, including the tributary Una.

A preliminary analysis of the situation suggests that priority needs are high capacity pumps, water distribution items, boats, rubber boots and sand bags.

On 7 December, the Civil Protection agency announced that flooding, the associated landslides and resultant disruption of travel ensuing from recent torrential rainfall in the east and south-east of the country was continuing; cities acutely affected by the disruption include Bijeljina, Foča, Tuzla and Goražde. At least three people were killed in Tuzla following a landslide that engulfed a home. The authorities have so far evacuated more than 3,400 people from low-lying areas and locations near the Drina river (which forms part of the country's border with Serbia), in which water levels have shown signs of receding. The Sava river (which also forms part of the same border) near Bijeljina is reportedly at a critical level, threatening to breach its banks; more than 1,000 homes there have been inundated. Further south in Goražde, around 48 km south-west of the capital Sarajevo, power supply has been severely disrupted. Several areas surrounding Bijeljina have also been badly affected, including the communities of Dvorovi, Dijelovi, Dazdarevo, Kriva Bara, Batković, Trnjaci, Gojsovac, Janja, Amajlije and Popovi. On 2nd December the authorities declared a state of emergency in response to the deluges; army personnel have been deployed and are using boats to access areas that have been isolated by the floods.

The rainfall has reportedly been the heaviest the country has experienced in more than 100 years. The authorities warned that further rainfall and the ensuing swelling of rivers, especially in the south, could worsen the situation. Floodwaters, as well as further potential landslides, can be expected to render some routes impassable, necessitating lengthy detours; disruption to road and rail travel may be more severe in areas close to rivers. While relief and evacuation plans have been implemented, it will take several days for the situation to normalise even after floodwaters recede; roads in rural areas are likely to take longer to clear as main highways and urban roads will be priorities for relief crews. In addition, disruption to essential services, such as power and water supply, could persist, especially in rural areas.

At the moment, the water level is on a decrease, however, approximately more than 5,000 flooded houses, buildings and facilities are still under the water. There are approximately 5,818 people evacuated from different area of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Majority of them are staying with their relatives while a small number is in collective accommodation at hotels and schools. The damage to their houses, land and possessions will be assessed after the water has retreated.

Coordination and partnerships

During the last few days, and related to present situation caused by floods in many parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Civil Protection has held meetings on regular basis. Members of Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina are actively contributing at such meetings in conducting assessment, planning and organizing flood related activities.

Red Cross is included into emergency headquarters together with Civil Protection and other actors since the Entity Law on Civil Protection obliges it to respond to every emergency situation. Thus, during disasters Red Cross cooperates with Civil Protection cantonal/ regional/ local headquarters throughout the country.

The National Society has conducted joint 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.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina has immediately started doing the assessment of the affected areas, although slowed down by flooded roads and landslides. However, all necessary efforts are made to gather the appropriate information in order to initiate optimal response. The Federation Office in Sarajevo has been in constant contact with the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina Headquarters and the local Red Cross branches.

So far the Red Cross volunteers were involved in monitoring the situation, collecting information, and preparing for the distribution of relief items.

The Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina is in constant communication with the International Federation's Zone office in Budapest, the Country Representation for the Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Partner National Societies (Swiss Red Cross), which are monitoring the situation and determining actions. There are also ongoing conversations with USAID to coordinate other actions.

Approximately 25 staff and 150 volunteers have been activated and deployed in various response teams.

The needs

Needs among the affected population are for food, hygienic items, blanket, mattresses, rubber boats etc. The National Society has no emergency stock available; therefore all items for the operation need to be procured.

The Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina assessment so far identified approximately 5,806 families affected by the floods and among them there are 1,450 (approximately 5,800 people) whose level of vulnerability dictates immediate response. These families are living either below or close to the poverty line, and their capacity for coping with the consequences of this situation (loss or destruction of property, food and severe deterioration of their living environment) is almost non-existent. Their winter food reserves have been damaged or destroyed by water and their access to safe drinking water is limited due to the pollution of water wells they regularly use.

The evacuated population will be returning to their homes after the water recedes and, having most of their belongings like blankets, mattresses, food etc. destroyed or washed away, the planned assistance will only be providing them with basic items needed to get through the coming weeks.

There are still a number of families expected to be reported as affected.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Objective: Families most affected by the constant rains and floods will be supported through provision of essential food and non-food items.
Output: 1,450 families (5,800 persons) in most affected areas will receive food parcel, hygiene kits, and blankets.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparation of final beneficiary lists.• Procurement of emergency items in Bosnia and Herzegovina.• Distribution of emergency items by RC branches and their volunteers according to the prepared beneficiary lists.• Coordination with local emergency departments and social welfare authorities.• Monitoring and evaluation of the relief activities and quality of items and reporting on relief distributions.

The Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina Branch Secretaries together with Red Cross volunteers will prepare the final beneficiary list and organise storage and distribution of relief goods in the respective branches. The Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina HQ will lead the emergency response operation assisting the affected families and will be closely supported by the Federation Office in Sarajevo. All the procurements of the above relief items will be done following the Federation standard procurement procedures. The entire operation will be communicated to the local media for information and dissemination.

With the support of the DREF funds, the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina will procure and distribute the following items:

- 2,900 hygiene kits (2 distributions)
- 5,800 blankets (4 blankets for each families)
- 2,900 food parcels (2 distributions for families)

All these items will be purchased locally. The food parcels will be procured taking into account local food habits and SPHERE standards.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases is reduced through the provision of safe water to 1,450 families
Outputs and activities planned: 1,450 families have improved access to safe water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid water and sanitation emergency needs and capacity assessments in coordination with local authorities • Purchase and distribution of 350 kg of disinfectant for the wells. The well-cleaning activities will be lead and coordinated by local authorities • Monitoring and evaluation

The Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina is liaising with other partners (particularly the authorities) to coordinate this initiative

Shelter

Outcome: The affected population is assisted in return to their houses and resuming with their normal life through assistance with drying the facilities.
Outputs and activities planned: 1,450 affected families are safely back in their houses, their health preserved through ensuring optimum hygiene conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid assessments in coordination with local authorities • Purchasing and distribution of 65 dryer machines • Training of the Red Cross staff for the use of drying machines • Monitoring and evaluation

The aim is to reduce the vulnerability of the affected families by improving the hygiene conditions in their homes. The Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be coordinating with other partners in these activities. The dryer machines will be returned to the Red Cross after use and used in future emergencies.

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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- **In Europe Zone Office:** Slobodanka Ćurić, Disaster Management Coordinator, Budapest, phone: +361 8884 510; email: slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org
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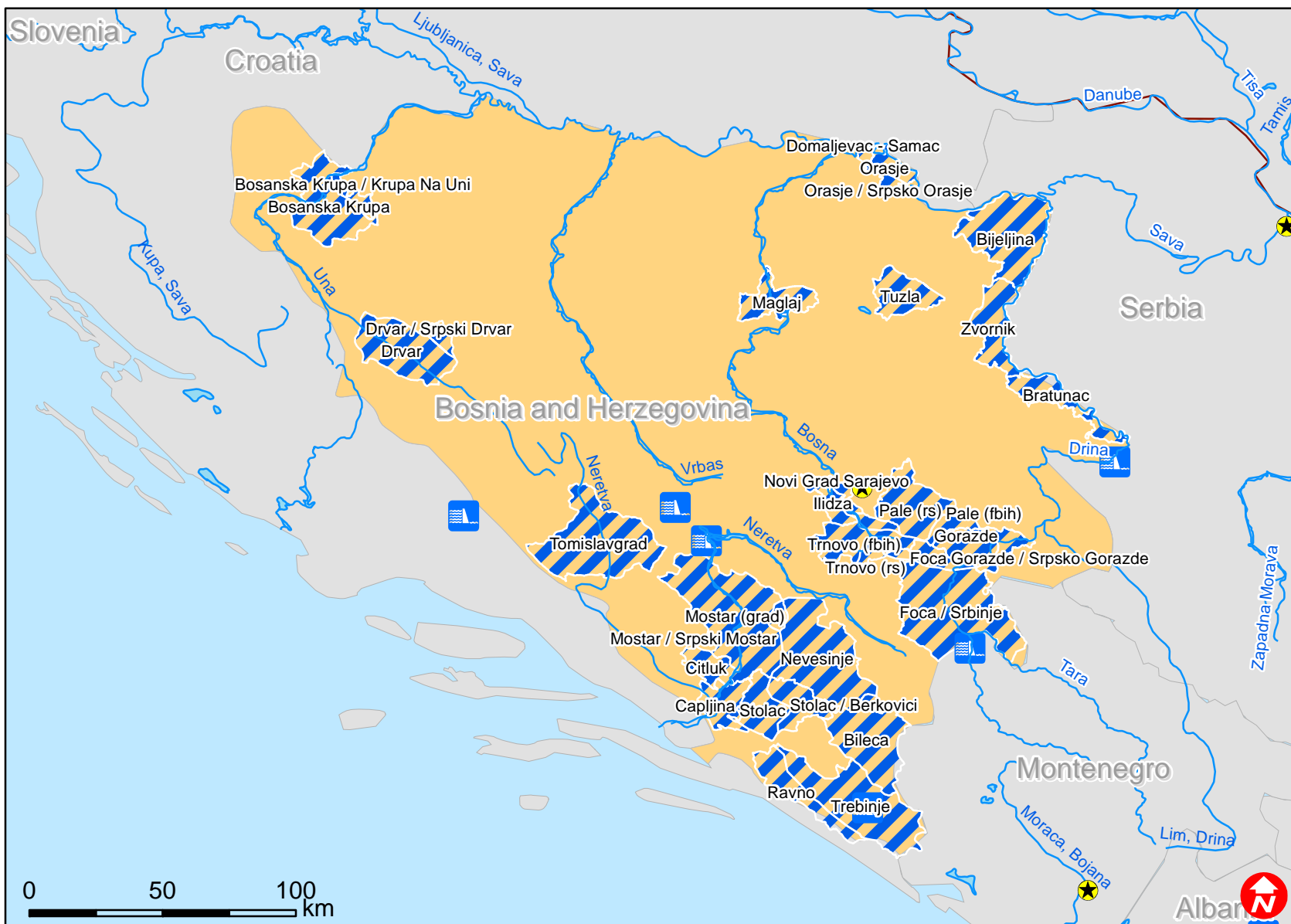
[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure	25,415	25,415
Clothing & Textiles	58,000	58,000
Food	66,700	66,700
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	35,655	35,655
Total Supplies	185,770	185,770
Distribution & Monitoring	5,000	5,000
Total Transport & Storage	5,000	5,000
International Staff	3,000	3,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	4,000	4,000
N National Society Staff and Volunteers	2,000	2,000
Total Personnel	9,000	9,000
Office Costs	2,800	2,800
Communications	2,000	2,000
Financial Charges	1,000	1,000
Total General Expenditure	5,800	5,800
Program Support	13,362	13,362
Total Programme Support	13,362	13,362
TOTAL BUDGET	218,932	218,932



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 Affected municipalities