

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Kosovo: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRKV003
08 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 102,752 (USD 104,862 or EUR 73,395) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 600 families (3,000 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Due to the heavy rainfalls in Kosovo as in many countries in Balkans, many villages in Kosovo, some of them in the rural and poorer part, have been flooded. Rivers that caused floods were Morava e Binçes, Kaqareva, Krena, Ereniku, Prishtevka. An estimated 850 households have been affected by the flooding.



Flood affected village in Viti/Vitine, Kosovo. Picture taken by a Red Cross volunteer.

The affected municipalities are Prishtina/ Priština, Kamenice/ Kamenica, Viti/ Vitina, Gjakova/ Đakovica, Dragash/ Dragaš and Skenderaj/ Srbica 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 Kosova has identified approximately 600 families (3,000 people) in need of urgent assistance with basic food, water and non-food items and is using its emergency stock to reach them as it works on further assessment of needs.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 08 March 2011 a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 08 June 2011).

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

The situation

Due to heavy rain and snowing over three days have caused floods in many villages and cities throughout Kosovo including Prishtina/ Priština, Kamenice/ Kamenica, Viti/ Vitina, Gjakova/ Đakovica, Dragash/ Dragaš and Skenderaj/ Srbica including their surrounding villages. Some of the villages are in the rural and poorer part of Kosovo and the floods are an additional deteriorating factor in their already difficult situation. The increased water levels in the rivers Morava e Binçes, Kaqareva, Krena, Ereniku, Prishtevka has caused damage to houses and personal belongings, agricultural land and equipment.

An estimated 850 households have been affected out of which the Red Cross of Kosova identified the most affected 600 families that need to be assisted immediately (approx.3,000 people). Many of the affected families had to be evacuated from their houses and are temporary accommodated in neighbouring villages (with relatives, neighbours or friends). In many villages in the rural areas people drink water from open wells, however due to the floods the wells have now been contaminated. Therefore a certain amount of safe drinking water has to be provided to them immediately.

There is a concern that these flooding will have a further deteriorating effect on the socio-economic situation of the people as the majority of affected people already belong to the poorest areas and are not in a position to cope with the situation on their own.

Coordination and partnerships

RCK is participating in all the meetings organized by the Department of Emergency Management and all activities will be carried out in coordination with them in order to achieve maximum efficiency, provide optimal assistance to the affected population and avoid duplication.

Limited assistance has been provided by UNHCR office in Kosovo with non food items for 30 families in one affected area.

The Federation and the Red Cross of Kosova will continue to closely cooperate with authorities and other main actors at all levels in the emergency response. The operation will be coordinated by the RCK branch secretaries in their areas of responsibility. Red Cross volunteers will be responsible for delivering the flood emergency assistance.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Red Cross of Kosova has immediately started doing the assessment of the affected 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 Kosovo has been in constant contact with the Red Cross of Kosova Headquarters and the local Red Cross branches.

Due to limited emergency buffer stocks the Red Cross of Kosova were only able to assist a limited part of the most vulnerable population with some mattresses and blankets. A detailed assessment is currently being conducted by the Red Cross volunteers and branch secretaries. Due to the floods in Albania, the Red Cross in Kosovo was also contacted by one prisoner in order to check whether his family members in Albania are safe. Therefore the Red Cross of Kosova tracing department is part of the operation and more similar requests are expected.

The needs

The Red Cross of Kosova assessment so far identified approximately 850 families affected by the floods and among them there are 600 (approximately 3.000 people) whose level of vulnerability dictates immediate response. These families are living either below or close to the poverty line, are socially marginalised 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 following table shows the immediate needs of this population¹:

Families	Item	Units per family	Units total
600	Blankets	3	1,800
600	Mattresses	1	600
600	Hygiene Kits (standard family hygiene parcel)	1	600
600	Drinking water (bottled, pack of 9 litres)	2	1200

¹ Some of the items in the table have already been distributed from the Red Cross of Kosova emergency stock

600	Food (family food parcel containing Wheat Flour, Rice, Sugar, Vegetable Oil, White Beans and Relish)	1	600
400	Rubber boots (pair)	1	400

Table: the immediate needs of the most vulnerable population as assessed by the Red Cross of Kosova

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. Therefore, a number of relief items will be used to assist these families and also some to replenish some of the emergency relief buffer stock used up by the local Red Cross Organizations in their initial response to the situation.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Providing emergency flood assistance (basic food and non-food items) to 600 families (approximately 3.000 persons) during a three months period.

Output: The nutritional and hygiene/ health needs of 600 families/ 3000 people are met over a months period during temporary accommodation and return to their damaged homes.

Activities planned:

- Preparation of final beneficiary lists.
- Procurement of emergency items in Kosovo.
- 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 reporting.

The Red Cross of Kosovo 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 Kosova Disaster Management Coordinator will lead the emergency response operation assisting the affected families and will be closely supported by the Federation Office in Kosovo. All the procurements of the above relief items will be done following Federation standard procurement procedures. The entire operation will be communicated to the local media for information and dissemination.

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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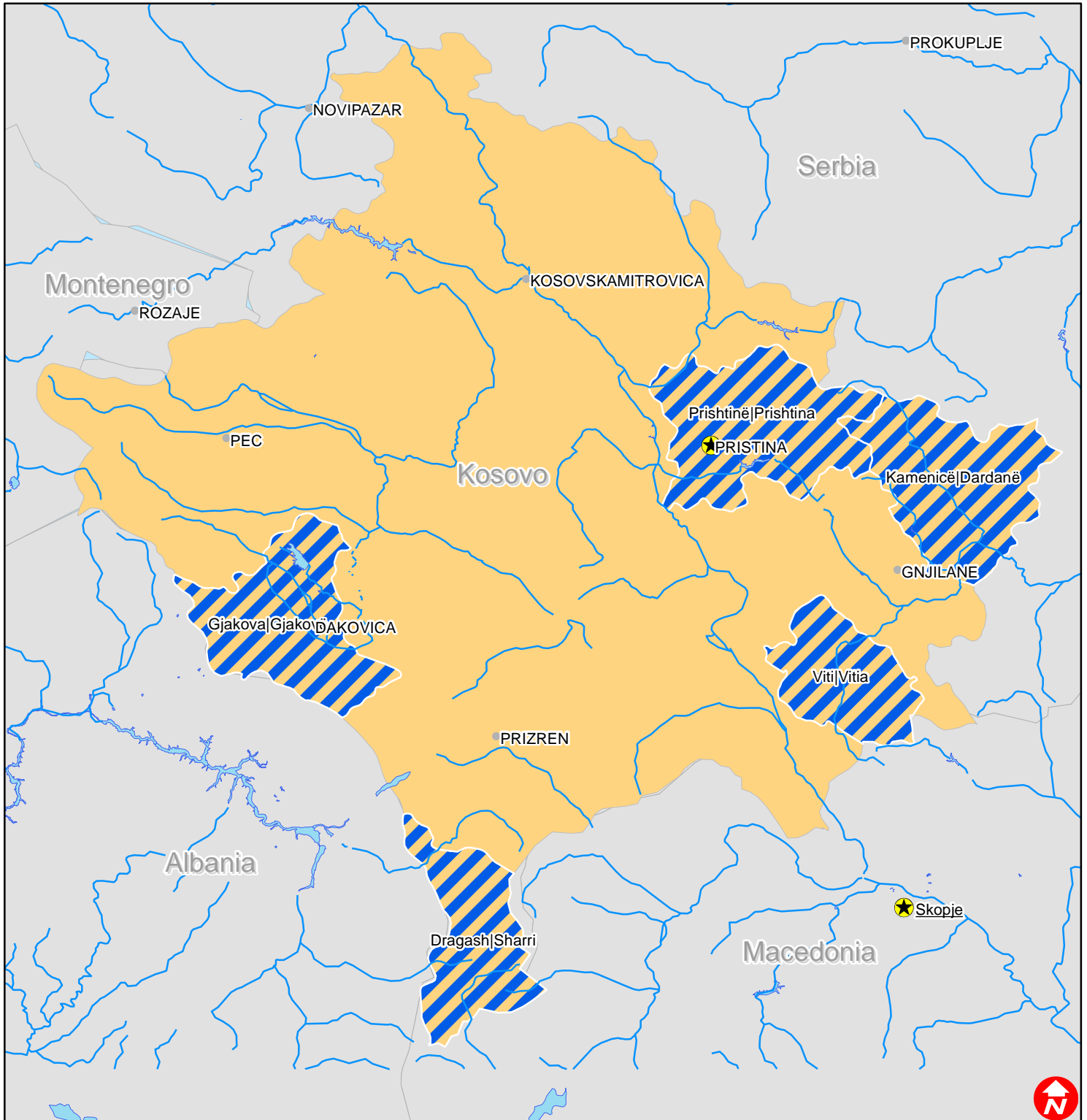
[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)


BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Clothing & Textiles	34,720	34,720
Food	25,200	25,200
Water & Sanitation	2,520	2,520
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	12,600	12,600
Total Supplies	75,040	75,040
Distribution & Monitoring	1,120	1,120
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,228	4,228
Total Transport & Storage	5,348	5,348
National Staff	7,617	7,617
N National Society Staff and Volunteers	2,372	2,372
Total Personnel	9,989	9,989
Information & Public Relation	756	756
Office Costs	3,388	3,388
Communications	1,120	1,120
Other General Expenses	840	840
Total General Expenditure	6,104	6,104
Program Support	6,271	6,271
Total Programme Support	6,271	6,271
TOTAL BUDGET	102,752	102,752



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 Affected municipalities