

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Montenegro: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRME002
GLIDE n°: FL-2009-000267-SRB
12 January 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 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 83,930 (USD 82,400 or EUR 56,870) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Montenegro Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,100 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Extreme rainfall, which began in December last year and has continued up to 10 January 2010, has caused serious material damage. A great number of houses in the area surrounding Lake Skadar, the municipalities of Ulcinj, the vicinity of River Bojana, the municipality of Golubovci, Zeta, the municipality of Cetinje, Rijeka Crnojevica, Zabljak Crnojevica, Bjolopavlici plain and the municipality of Niksici have been flooded. Some 1,100 persons, or 245 households, have had to be evacuated.



Severe flooding hit parts of Montenegro after weeks of sustained rainfall. Photo: Montenegro Red Cross.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed **by 14 April 2010**; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 14 July, 2010).

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

The situation

Heavy, constant rainfall lasting for several days from 25 December 2009 until 10 January 2010 led to a dramatic increase in the water level of Lake Skadar and River Bojana. This has resulted in enormous problems for people living close to the river in the municipality of Ulcinj and in the surrounding areas of the lake and the municipalities of Bar and Golubovci. The inhabitants of Kurilo, Rijeka Crnojevica, Ada Bojana and several neighbouring villages have had to be evacuated, together with their livestock and possessions. In only 24 hours, the level of flood water from Lake Skadar in Rijeka Crnojevica rose by more than 100 cm, flooding many households.

Water levels are still increasing, and if this continues, may cause more serious humanitarian consequences, not only for the inhabitants of the endangered areas, but also for people living in the municipality of Golubovci, where the level of the River Moraca is also rising.



Cemeteries were also affected by the flooding. Photo: Montenegro Red Cross.

Heavy rain falls occurred in other towns, notably in the continental part of Montenegro, the municipality of Niksic and Danilovgrad, where many villages are endangered and flooded.

This situation has caused significant material damage. Estimates are that around 20 settlements are endangered, affecting around 100 households, or 450 persons. The material damage to the buildings will only be truly assessed after the water level has decreased. Currently, there is no electricity in the settlements, so all the food that was in refrigerators and freezers has been damaged. Also, crops and cattle were disrupted in some places.

population are increasing. People here mainly bred livestock, but now, due to the flooding, many of the cattle have become lost, or drowned in the water. This poses further complications to the situation.

The situation is deteriorating from hour to hour, and the needs of the affected

Regional context: This situation is gravest in the border areas of Montenegro and Albania. The water is flowing from Albania to Montenegro and the Adriatic Sea, adding to the already difficult situation in Montenegro.

Coordination and partnerships

The government of Montenegro, within its mechanisms for disaster response and sector for emergency situations and civil protection, is dealing with the consequences of the flooding. It is working on mitigation too, having in mind that the situation could deteriorate in the coming days. Government representatives have invited all the municipalities to participate in the rescue actions, with their resources and mechanisms.

The Montenegro Red Cross immediately began responding, in coordination and cooperation with the governmental and local authorities. Governmental bodies established teams to rescue and evacuate the population. Taking into consideration the difficulties that the population is facing, the military of Montenegro has been engaged, helping fix electric and waterworks systems. The Ministry of Health is also active, and all the health centres are open with doctors on standby.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Montenegro Red Cross immediately reacted to this disaster, according to its mandate and internal capacities. From the outset, the National Society has been part of the protection system for the affected areas and is still responding at both the local and national levels.

At the local level, Red Cross branches are participating in the work of the municipal crisis headquarters, monitoring the situation in the field, assessing the consequences and communicating with other stakeholders. Representatives of the branches are participating fully in all the actions that are being taken, in cooperation with the local rescue teams.

At the national level, the disaster management department of the Montenegro Red Cross is constantly communicating with the governmental institution in charge of rescue and protection, which is coordinating the operation. The Red Cross has already sent 150 pairs of rubber boots and 150 raincoats to the affected population in Zabljak Crnojevica, Rijeka Crnojevica, Ulcinj, Bjelopavlici plain and Golubovci, as an initial response. At the moment, the society is distributing jackets, shirts and vests; 250 pieces of each. Also,

according to the needs of the affected population for drinking water 50 5-litre bottles of water were distributed.

The Montenegro Red Cross has offered supplies from its warehouse to 300 affected persons, so that they are not waiting too long for assistance to come. Communication with the International Federation is very good, with regular reports to the country representation and Zone office about the situation.

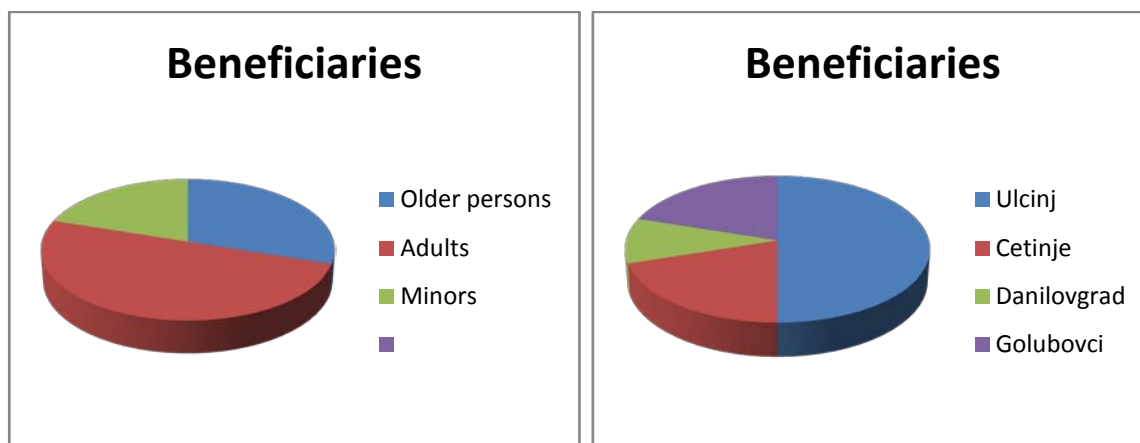
The needs

People living in the affected areas urgently need temporary shelter, hygiene and sanitary items, drinking water and food. Since the heavy rainfall is continuing, and the situation is deteriorating, the inhabitants of the affected areas have had to be evacuated.

At present, there are 245 households in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. These persons are facing a serious situation, since there is no electricity in their homes; there is no drinking water or basic food and hygiene items. All household items are damaged, meaning that people cannot conduct their daily routines of preparing meals or maintaining rudimentary hygiene.

Immediately after the floods caused by the heavy rainfall, Red Cross teams have been assessing the situation in the field with the local and national protection and rescue services. Together they created the preliminary list of the affected population, as well as of their basic needs in this emergency situation. As already implied, the needs of the affected population (245 households, or 1,100 beneficiaries) are complex and require sufficient amounts of food, drinking water, blankets, jerry cans, clothes, rubber boots and rain coats to be provided.

The beneficiary groups by age and geographical location can be broken down as:



Out of the total population to be reached by this operation, there are 3 per cent who live with disabilities, and 7 per cent who are chronically ill.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
To distribute food items, blankets, candles, clothes, shoes and rain coats for 1,100 persons.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect precise and accurate data of the beneficiaries; • Activate procurement mechanisms; • Send requests for offers to the potential suppliers; • Select the best offers and procure; • Packing; • Locate the place for distribution, time frame of the activity; • Develop a plan of distribution of assistance; • Distribute the assistance; • Evaluate and monitor, including a survey of people reached satisfaction; • Coordinate media coverage; • Reporting

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion
To provide the affected population with sanitary conditions and drinking water by distributing hygiene parcels and drinking water directly to 1,100 affected persons.
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide drinking water • Purchase the hygiene items; • Purchase the jerry cans, which will be used by the beneficiaries for long-term distribution of water • Evaluate and monitor, including a survey of people reached satisfaction; • Coordinate media coverage; • Reporting

The Montenegro Red Crescent considered activating the unit for water purification in emergency situations, but its equipment is not complete. It was decided to establish cooperation with the local waterworks centre, where the volunteers would work together with firefighters in providing water supply points, from where the affected population would take water.

The Montenegro Red Cross, according to its mandate and law, is obliged to distribute humanitarian assistance. This will be carried out in the manner that ensures maximum quality. Activities that will be conducted to ensure this is met include preparing the fleet for the distribution, servicing the vehicles and providing logistics to the distribution itself.

APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

RELIEF NEEDS

500	Shelter	2,901
510	Clothing & Textiles	42,269
520	Food	14,504
560	Utensils & Tools	2,538
570	Other Supplies & Services	5,254

Total Relief Needs 67,466

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

590	Storage - Warehouse	1,480
592	Distribution & Monitoring	4,810
593	Transport & Vehicles Costs	592

PERSONNEL

640	Regionally Deployed Staff	1,000
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662 National Society Staff 1,110

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

680 Workshops & Training

GENERAL EXPENSES

700 Travel 800

710 Information & Public Relations 300

740 Communication Costs 750

790 Other General Expenses 500

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

599 Programme Support - PSR 5,123

Total Operational Needs 16,465

Total Requested Allocation 83,930

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

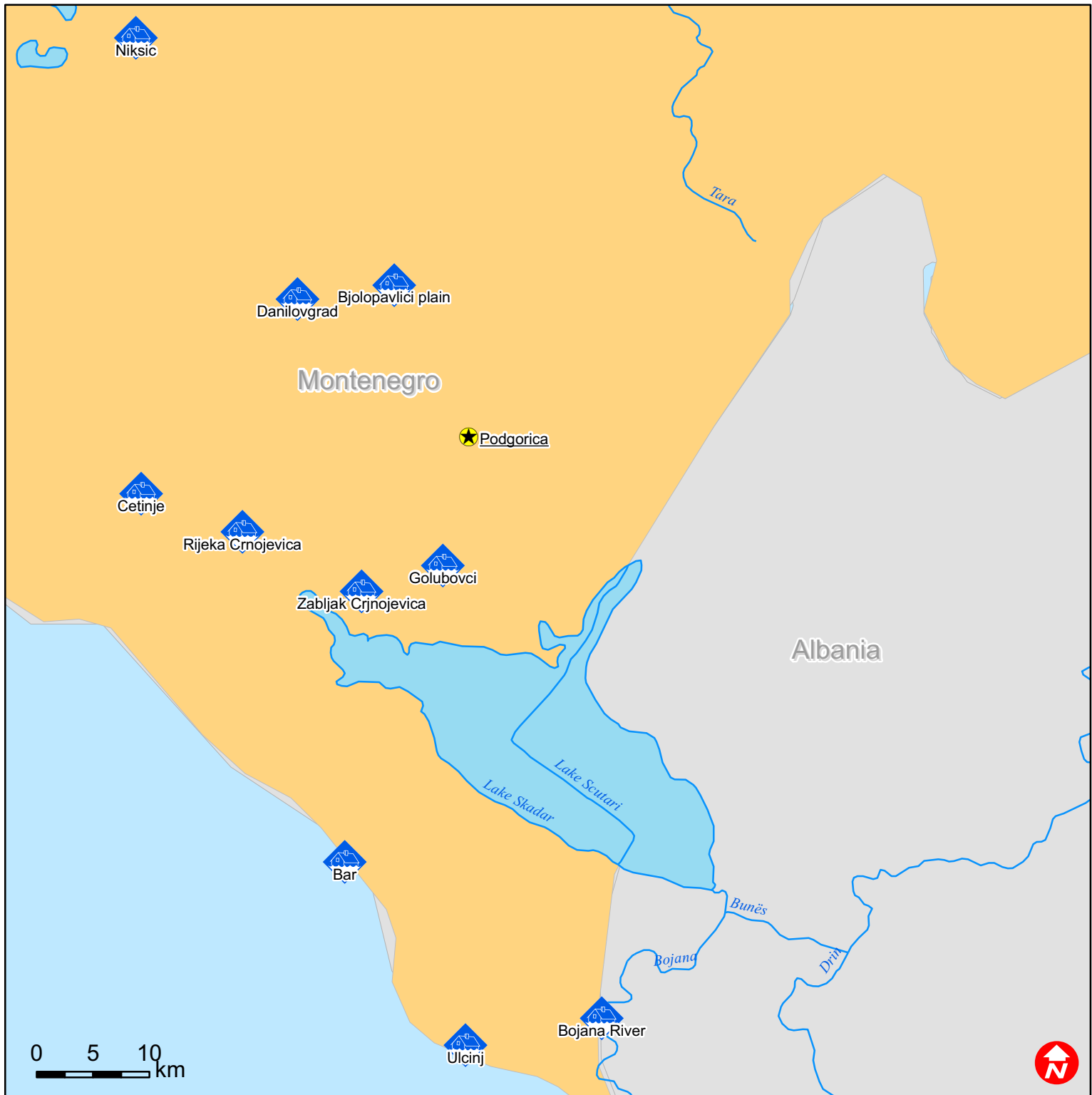
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<DREF budget above and map below; >](#)



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Affected areas