

MINOR EMERGENCY



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO SNOWFALLS

22 March 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

**THIS MINOR EMERGENCY SEEKS CHF 113,910
IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES
TO ASSIST 8,750 BENEFICIARIES FOR 1 MONTH**

**CHF 113,910 HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S
DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF)**

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

Djula Losonc, Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro DM Coordinator, Djula Losonc mob.tel + 381 63380 735;
e-mail: jckdpp@ptt.yu; djula@redcross.org.yu

Anja Toivola, HoRD, Regional Delegation for Central Europe, Phone: +361 248 33 00, email:
Ifrchu05@ifrc.org

Erja Reinikainen, Regional Officer, Europe Department, Phone: +41 22 730 43 19, Fax: + 41 22 733 03 95,
Email: Erja.Reinikainen@ifrc.org

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

The situation

Severe snowfalls have affected southwest Serbia and north and northwest Montenegro. While it is normal that every winter large numbers of households are cut off for up to three or so weeks, this winter has been particularly severe. Heavy snowfalls have resulted in snow being deeper and longer lasting than previous winters. Snow currently lies up to 2.3m deep and on some local roads, snowdrifts are up to 12 meters.

People have been cut off and their food and hygiene supplies are spent. Electricity and water supplies have also been affected.

The most urgent assistance is needed for 14 Montenegro municipalities (Savnik, Zabljak, Pluzine, Kolasin, Bijelo Polje, Cetinje, Niksic, Mojkovac, Berane, Rozaje, Pljevlja, Andrijevica, Plav and Bar – village Limljani) and three of them are extremely badly hit (Savnik, Zabljak and Pluzine). Most of these municipalities have proclaimed a state of emergency. The most affected parts are village areas, which are among the poorest and also have a large number of elderly people, more than 60. The Government of Montenegro established a co-ordination team for protection and rescue during heavy snowfalls in north Montenegro at the end of February but the situation remains serious.

In southwest Serbia, there is a similar situation. The situation is most urgent in five municipalities (Sjenica, Tutin, Raska, Novi Pazar and Prijepolje). Based on a Red Cross of Montenegro and Red Cross of Serbia assessment, relief items, such as food and hygiene parcels, are urgently needed. 2,600 family food packages and hygiene parcels are proposed for immediate distribution.

The Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro (SMRCS) sought CHF113,910 of assistance in cash, to help 2,600 families (8,750 beneficiaries) for one month. DREF funds have been allocated and will be used for procurement of food and hygiene parcels for target groups according to the following criteria:

- persons older than 65,
- heavily disabled persons
- very poor families with small children (under 6 years old)
- poor, single mothers with many children

Red Cross activities

The Red Cross is monitoring the situation and is taking part in various local actions. The Red Cross of Montenegro began collecting 200 hygiene parcels for the most vulnerable in Savnik. The Red Cross of Serbia began collecting 200 family food packages for the most vulnerable families in the municipality of Sjenica. This assistance has reached the target area.

The Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross Society is co-ordinating activities both with the Red Cross of Serbia and the Red Cross of Montenegro via disaster manager co-ordinators. Supplies of blankets and candles are also part of the help that will be provided to crisis areas.

According to weather reports, higher temperatures are expected, which may cause the snow to melt and cause flooding. The Red Cross in Serbia and Montenegro is monitoring the situation closely in case further response to flooding is required.

Proposed Relief Operation

Goal: SMRCS to provide relief assistance to 2,600 families affected by snow falls in Serbia and Montenegro

The following activities will be undertaken:

- preparation of a beneficiary list with the local authorities
- procurement of food and non-food items locally
- delivery of food and non-food items to RC branches and after that to communes
- organisation of distribution to beneficiaries
- preparation of data reporting and monitoring of distribution

The content of the food parcel for one family will be: 25 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg of beans, 2 kg of canned meat, 3 litres of oil, 3 kg of sugar, 1 kg of salt and 2 kg of pasta.

The content of the hygiene parcel for one family will be: 3 kg of detergent, 1 litre of shampoo, 2 pieces of soap, and 4 rolls of toilet paper.

SMRCS requested DREF as financial support for purchasing the items, distribution, transport, loading, unloading, staff, monitoring and administrative costs. The budget is below.

Food parcels	2,600	Budget Amount CHF.
Total food items		Quantities kg.
Wheat flour		67,600
Cooking oil		7,800
Beans		5,200
Pasta		5,200
Sugar		7,800
Salt		2,600
Canned meat		5,200
SUB Total	CHF. 76,230.00	101,400
Hygiene parcels	2,600	
		Quantities kg.
Detergent		7,800
Shampoo		2,600
Soap		650
Toilet paper		520
SUB Total	CHF. 20,020.00	11,570
Local transportation, Monitoring, DPP units		
Monitoring DPP units field work		
Transportation and warehousing costs		
SUB Total	CHF. 10,256.40	
TOTAL		CHF. 106,506.40 (plus 6.5% PSR) CHF113,910

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring of relief distribution will be undertaken by disaster preparedness (DP) co-ordinators in conjunction with branch secretaries. Weekly field visits to families will be undertaken in order to verify the receipt of parcels. Written situation reports as well as any additional needs will be submitted to the SMRCS HQ. The evaluation of activities will be made during daily meetings, based on the reports received from the field.