

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Information bulletin

Central Europe: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin n° 1
GLIDE n° FL-2013-000068-CZE/DEU/CHE/AUT
5 June 2013

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding at this point of time.

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

Summary: Due to exceptionally heavy rainfalls and the consequent extreme flooding of the major river systems, particularly in the Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland and Austria, followed by Slovakia and Hungary, thousands of people have been evacuated from several parts of central Europe. Further rainfall, which has been forecast across parts of the region in the coming days, is likely to exacerbate the problems caused by flooding, especially in low-lying areas. Residents living there might be faced with a considerable disruption to essential services, including road and railway transport, mass transit, telecommunications and electricity.



Rescue operation in Southern Germany during the floods.
Photo: German Red Cross

The situation

Czech Republic

At least seven people have been killed in the flooding. The authorities have evacuated at least 8,000 residents from low-lying areas at risk of flooding and have deployed relief personnel to erect flood barriers along the banks of various rivers on flood alert, including the Vltava river in Prague. The authorities warned that flooding along the Vltava could worsen later this week as the water level peaks due to on-going rains, but the city's flood defences are expected to hold.

A state of emergency remains in effect till further notice; the Czech authorities enacted the measure in response to torrential downpours and associated flooding. An alert issued by the Czech Meteorological Service warned of continuing rainfall and flooding in at least 13 cities, including the capital Prague, Karlovy Vary (Karlovy Vary region), Plzeň (Plzeň region), Liberec (Liberec region), Ústí nad Labem (Ústí nad Labem region), Hradec Králové (Hradec Králové region), Pardubice (Pardubice region) and Pířbram (Central Bohemian region).

Germany

As of early 4 June, the flood situation in south-east Germany remains critical, particularly in the Elbe river basin. The rising levels of the Elbe have triggered disaster alerts in the city of Magdeburg and Gera as well as in the counties of Altenburger Land, Greiz and Saale-Holzland. In Bavaria (Bayern) the water levels have slightly subsided in Passau and Rosenheim but the situation worsened in Regensburg, where a disaster alert was triggered. 4,000 people were evacuated in Deggendorf and another 1,000 in Kolbe Moor near Rosenheim. In Thüringen, ca. 2,350 people were evacuated.

The authorities on 4 June forecast further heavy rain in the coming days across several states, including Saxony, Bavaria, Saxony-Anhalt, Brandenburg, Thuringia and Baden-Wurttemberg. The cities of Passau, Würzburg, Rosenheim (all Bavaria) and Chemnitz (Saxony) have borne the brunt of the poor weather, and severe disaster warnings have been issued for these cities. The authorities warned that the water level in the Danube river would continue to rise, especially in Bavaria. Water levels at Passau, where the Danube, Inn and Ilz rivers intersect, have reached record levels. Power supply has been cut off in several flood-affected areas of the state as a precautionary measure. More than 1,700 soldiers have been deployed primarily in the country's southern and eastern regions to assist with the construction of flood defences. On 2 June the authorities declared a state of emergency in several parts of the country. At least four people have died across Germany in weather-related incidents.

Austria

As of 3 June, due to the heavy rains of the last few days, the provinces of Salzburg, Vorarlberg, Tirol, Upper Austria and Lower Austria are reported affected by floods. The municipalities along Inn, Salzach, Traun, Enns, Steyr, Danube rivers are reported affected by floods and landslides. A state of emergency was announced in parts of Salzburg, Upper and Lower Austria. As of 3 June, one person was reported killed and another three were still missing.

Heavy rainfall and associated flooding have triggered landslides in the north-western provinces of Austria, including Vorarlberg, Tyrol and Salzburg, forcing hundreds of people to evacuate. Several long-distance trains on 3 June were cancelled on the country's western route due to flooding.



Coordination meeting for the evacuation in the city of Melk, Austria.

Photo: Austrian Red Cross

Slovakia

The Slovak Hydrological Institute (SHMU) on 3 June issued a red alert, the highest of three warning levels, for the country's southern region along the Danube river, including the capital Bratislava.

Hungary

The authorities in the capital Budapest on 4 June announced preventive measures ahead of expected flooding of the Danube river, including a shutdown of all public boat transport and a suspension of some public transit lines. Heavy rains are forecast to continue throughout much of the country on 4 June.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The National Societies (Austrian Red Cross, German Red Cross, Czech Red Cross, Slovak Red Cross and Hungarian RC) are closely monitoring the situation and are in constant communication and coordination with the government institutions on both local and central levels. The NSs are supporting the emergency authorities in their respective countries in the evacuation through the provision of emergency shelters for evacuated residents. The National Societies are also distributing relief items (hygiene and food parcels, and others) to the affected beneficiaries, besides catering. The provision of psycho-social support (PSS) including PSS-hotlines for beneficiaries and responders is also conducted. The National Societies are assisting with the clean-up operations in the affected flooded areas.

Coca-Cola Hellenic, with which the IFRC has an agreement on disaster preparedness and response, has donated pallets of water and sparkling beverages in the Czech Republic and Austria, in support to the relief operations of the National Societies.

The other National Societies along the Danube river are starting preparations as for example Bulgarian Red Cross where the National Disaster Response Team and the National Floods Response Team of the Bulgarian Red Cross have been activated and are on standby.

The IFRC is actively monitoring the situation in the affected countries and the concerned Red Cross Societies in the Danube basin and along the Elbe river. Information is being collected from the disaster management for the National Societies (NSs), and early warning systems are being activated jointly with the NSs. The IFRC is providing technical support to the NSs of the affected region for updating their contingency plans. The IFRC is ready to provide technical support to those National Societies that decide to apply for financial assistance from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

IFRC Europe Zone:

- Alberto Monguzzi, Disaster Management Coordinator,
Tel. +36 1 888 4505, email: alberto.monguzzi@ifrc.org
 - Lasse Norgaard, Zone Communication Coordinator,
Tel. +36 1 888 4508, email lasse.norgaard@ifrc.org
-



Click [here](#) to return to the title page

How we work

All IFRC 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 IFRC'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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.

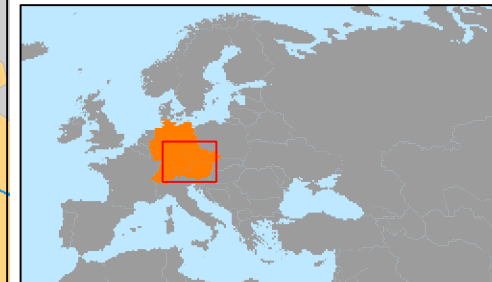
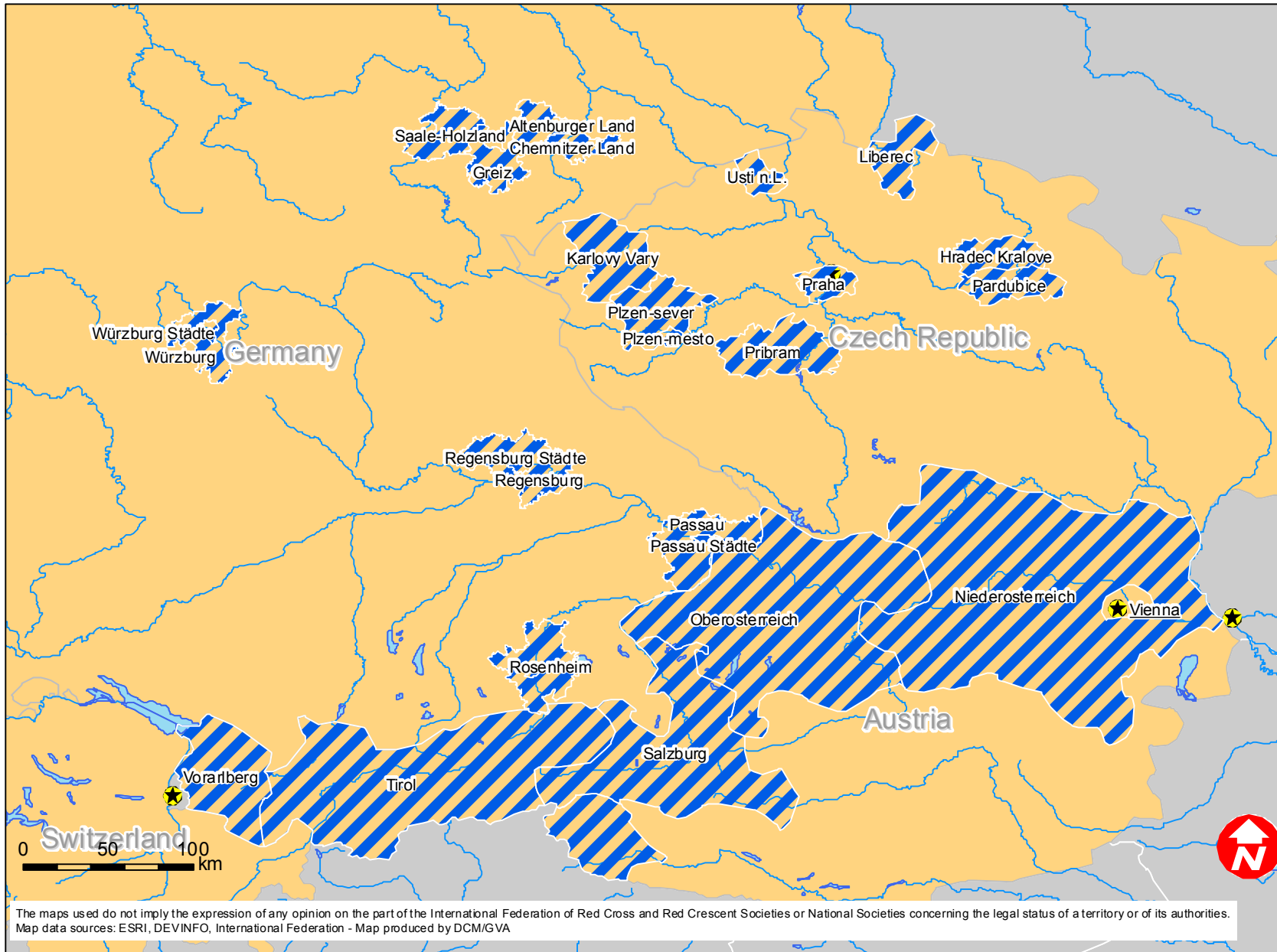



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.



Europe: Floods



 Most affected areas