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Information bulletin no. 2

Greece: Flash floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Date of disaster:

15 November 2017 (ongoing)

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Host National Society: Hellenic Red Cross (HRC)

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

The situation

On 15 November 2017, flash floods hitting Greece after severe weather overnight left roads destroyed and blocked by mud and debris, as well as commercial and residential buildings inundated by mud. Attica region, including municipalities west of Athens, including industrial towns Mandra, Nea Peramos and Megara, were among the worst-affected areas. Mandra, a town of 20,000 inhabitants, has been the worst-hit, with buildings and vehicles almost completely destroyed. At the time of writing, 20 deaths have been reported, and two people are reported as missing. Heavy rainfall continues across the country, which can inhibit access to some of the affected areas, and gives grounds to concerns about further damages.

Authorities and local emergency management agencies are engaged in first response, including search and rescue, evacuations, and restoring access and electricity and water supply infrastructure. During the initial needs assessment, conducted 18–19, approximately 2,000 households are estimated to be affected. HRC will prioritise supporting approximately 350 families based on vulnerability criteria. Current needs include food and potable water, psychosocial support, household appliances, clothes, medicine, money and the removal of mud from buildings. The authorities have stated the affected population will be compensated for the damage; however, the timeline for this remains uncertain.



Image 1. Vehicles destroyed by mud torrent in Mandra.
Photo: IFRC

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

HRC has held coordination meetings with municipal authorities, civil protection and fire brigade personnel and hospital staff to assess the needs of the affected population. Following the emergency, HRC Samaritan Rescue and Lifeguard (SRL) branches across the Attica region were placed in immediate operational readiness, and 20 volunteers were deployed to the field to provide water drainage, rescue operations, water distribution, provision of first aid, electricity provision through power generators, and technical and material support to other teams.

Throughout the response, one HRC staff and 35 HRC volunteers have maintained a 24-hour presence, in shifts, providing **safety patrols, first aid, psychological first aid, search and rescue missions and evacuation, damage assessment, removal of debris, water distribution, pumping out water from households, cleaning of households, and distribution of food and water.**

HRC is also in continued coordination with authorities and government bodies, as well as providing **relief distributions from local donations**, and, with support from IFRC, is currently finalising emergency needs assessment and targeting of beneficiaries for a **cash based intervention for approximately 350 most-vulnerable households.**

The intervention is planned to be implemented within the coming days, once registration has taken place in coordination with the local authorities. This emergency response activity is closely coordinated with the municipality for immediate assistance to those in need, which will be later complemented by support from the local authorities. HRC and IFRC are also releasing contingency stock for assisting those in need with essential items such as hygiene kits.

IFRC Country Office in Greece maintains a close contact with the Regional Office for Europe (ROE) in Budapest for potential additional support in case of need. ROE is ready to provide support as needed using regional and global disaster response tools.

IFRC has an important presence in Greece with a Country Office, and has been supporting HRC in conducting assessments and coordination with the authorities. The IFRC Country Office has been present in Greece since the beginning of 2016 due to the increasing influx of people in 2015, and has supported HRC in areas such as relief in non-food items, shelter, health and restoring family links. IFRC is also supporting HRC capacity development for disaster management.



Image 2. HRC volunteers pumping mud out of a household. Photo: Hellenic Red Cross

Communications

HRC and IFRC have been working to highlight the response efforts across social media and mass media, including through a [web story](#) published on 20 November. The IFRC Greece communications coordinator was deployed to the field to generate content and media outreach from HRC and IFRC has seen the National Society's work covered by mainstream media in Greece and [around the world](#).

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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 Humanitarian 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.

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



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.

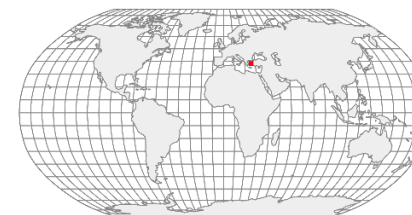





Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.



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-  Flash Flood Affected Community
-  Capital City
-  Regional Unit Boundary

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
 Map data sources: Hellenic Red Cross, IFRC, GADM, ELSTAT (ΕΛΣΤΑΤ). Map produced by IFRC Regional Office for Europe.