

# Information bulletin no. 1

## Albania: Flash floods

Date of issue: 4 December 2017

Date of disaster:

Ongoing since 30 November 2017

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Host National Society: Albanian Red Cross

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

## The situation

Heavy rainfall affected the territory of Albania since 30 November 2017. The river levels have been rapidly increasing, the water channels were blocked by debris streams, leading to floods in urban and densely populated areas.

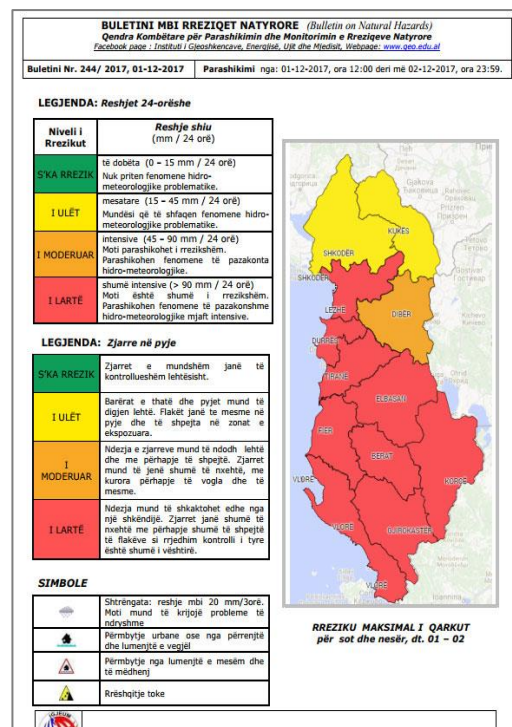
The most affected districts are the followings: Fushë-Kruja, Tirana, Durrës, Shijak, Kavaja, Berat, Gjirokastra, Vlora, Fier, Elbasan, Korçë and Dibra.

The bulletin issued by Albania's Geosciences Energy, Water and Environment Institute forecasted heavy rains for the period between 29 November to 4 December 2017. The Directory for Civil Emergency issued an early warning on floods and landslides to the Albanian population.

The Government ordered the establishment of Emergency Management Commissions across the country in response to the situation. The Ministry of Education has suspended the school activities in entire country. The Albanian Government has mobilized the State Police forces, the Military Units, and Fire Brigades Units which are assisting the affected families in high-risk areas, especially with evacuations.

The rainfall is still intense and spreading particularly to the southern part of Albania. On 2 December 2017, the Vjosa, Devoll, Osum, Zeza, and Seman rivers have overflowed their banks causing huge flooding in several areas endangering also some major national highways. 3,000 people have been provided with early warning to be prepared for evacuation from these areas. So far, evacuated 1,250 people have been evacuated, who are accommodated in sport halls, school dormitories or at their relatives.

The Civil Emergency Structures, the Military Units and State Police are continuing the evacuation the most vulnerable families in the three most affected areas of Vlora, Fier and Fushë-Krujë and have started repairing the damaged infrastructure.



Bulletin issued by Albania's Geosciences Energy, Water and Environment Institute

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Albanian Red Cross has been closely coordinating with the local authorities in assessing the situation and the needs. According to the updated assessment, about 2,000 families have been identified as severely affected with considerable loss on winter food reserves, animals, home furniture's and electro-domestic devices etc. The most affected families by districts are: Fushë-Kruja, Tirana, Durres, Shijak, Kavaja, Berat, Gjirokastra, Vlora, Fier, Elbasan, Korçë and Dibra.

**18 Red Cross branches of the Albanian Red Cross have mobilized trained volunteers**, who are involved in raising awareness of the population, monitoring of and collecting information on the situation, conducting preliminary assessments and in the relief distribution. The Secretaries of the RC branches are participating in the meeting of the emergency management commissions as well.

**So far, the National Society has distributed 1,100 blankets, 7.4 MT of basic food items and 750 litres water** for about 1,100 people, who are accommodated in the collective centres.

Awareness raising messages for the population are being disseminated through social media channels (such as the National Society's Facebook page and website).

The preliminary information collected indicates significant need for food and non-food items (blankets, mattresses, hygiene items) for the affected families. **The emergency is still evolving, but based on the currently available information, the Albanian Red Cross is preparing a DREF relief operation for about 2,000 families.** The Turkish Red Crescent Society and the Red Cross of Montenegro have offered relief items in bilateral support.

The Albanian Red Cross maintains a close contact with the IFRC Regional Office for Europe (ROE) in Budapest for potential additional support. ROE is ready to provide support as required using regional and global disaster response tools.

### Communications

The Albanian Red Cross and IFRC have been working to highlight the response efforts across social media and mass media, and provided information on the [website](#) and on [Twitter](#).



Evaluation on highway Tirana-Durres Photo: ARC



Evacuation in Kruja area. Photo: ARC

## 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**.