

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: FLOODS

7 August, 2001

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

Appeal No. 19/2001

Launched on 29 June 2001 for CHF 474,000 for three months.

DREF Allocated: CHF 75,000

Beneficiaries: 8,500

Operations Update No. 1; Period covered: 29 June - 29 July 2001; Next Ops Update No. 2 expected September 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 59.3%

Related Appeals: 01.54/2001; Bosnia & Herzegovina

Outstanding needs: CHF 193,422

Summary: The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH) has mounted an effective flood assistance operation, with support from the Federation, Red Cross branches, donors, and other national societies. The appeal has not been fully met and additional coverage is sought.

Operational Developments:

After three consecutive days of heavy rains, rivers in northern and central part of Bosnia and Herzegovina burst their banks on 20 June 2001 flooding large areas of Tuzla Canton, Dobojo and Banja Luka Regions and Brcko District. Prior to this, a number of municipalities had been hit by devastating hailstorms. Most municipalities declared a state of emergency at the height of the floods. The respective Cantons and Regions consequently declared a state of elemental disaster.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH) first launched a national appeal on 21 June 2001, followed by an official request for international support from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. A Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) consisting of three members from the Norwegian, Spanish and German Red Cross was mobilised by the Federation on June 22 to assist the RCSBiH in developing a plan of action for assistance.

The FACT arrived on June 23. After meeting with the Chairman of the Presidency of the RCSBiH, National Society staff, the Federation head of delegation and delegation staff, the team left Sarajevo for the affected

regions on 24 June, 2001. It was accompanied by Federation country delegation national society staff from the Regional/Cantonal offices.

Based on the first report, the Federation launched Preliminary Appeal 19/01 on 26 June 2001. The revised, final version, based on the team's final report, was launched on 29 June 2001.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CHF 75,000 allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) enabled the operation to start immediately. RCSBiH also undertook immediate action to save the lives and property. Local Red Cross branches released and distributed the limited emergency stocks of basic relief items to the most vulnerable. The RCSBiH mobilised all available human and material resources. Unfortunately, Red Cross branches did not have enough basic supplies (food, blankets and hygiene items) to meet all needs.

Regional and cantonal Red Cross secretaries and Entity Red Cross headquarters contacted the Federation delegation seeking urgent assistance in the form of food, blankets, jerrycans, sleeping bags, drinking water, hygiene items, gas cookers, disinfectants, tools, boots, plastic-sheeting and sand bags. The Regional Delegation in Budapest and neighbouring national societies were immediately informed about the floods in BiH.

The Bulgarian Red Cross contacted the International Federation Delegation in BiH and together with the American Red Cross delegation in Bulgaria sent 6,000 blankets. The donation arrived on 24 June and was distributed in Canton Tuzla and Brcko District.

Brcko District: The Red Cross branch in Brcko distributed the following from their warehouse: 105 blankets, 105 mattresses and jerrycans to the flood victims. The ICRC Delegation sent canned food (700 kg) to Brcko District on 23 June.

Banja Luka Region: The Krajina Regional Red Cross, Banja Luka, distributed 200 food parcels and 185 blankets from its own stock.

Tuzla Canton: The Bulgarian and American Red Cross donation in blankets was mainly distributed in Tuzla Canton (4,800 pieces). The remaining 1,200 pieces were sent to the Brcko District Red Cross. The Red Cross Novo Sarajevo sent a mobile kitchen (capacity of 600 meals per day), and three Red Cross volunteers to Zivinice Municipality on June 25. The ICRC provided funds for the kitchen. The kitchen operated in the collective centre "Karaula" for four days and was then moved to Srebrenik Municipality. The kitchen operated three days with the same capacity in Srebrenik. On 26 June, the Red Cross of FBiH sent 1 tonne of rice, 1 tonne of flour, biscuits and 30 sleeping bags. This was distributed to the Zivinice and Gracanica Municipalities. The Red Cross Mostar East branch sent food and 180 blankets to Tuzla Canton which was then sent to Zivinice Municipality. Save the Children offices in Tuzla and Sarajevo donated 1,000 blankets and 240 hygiene parcels to Zivinice and 1,000 blankets and 350 hygiene parcels for Lukavac Municipality.

The Swiss Red Cross donated 1,000 kg of IZOSAN-G, and disinfectant for water which were distributed to all health centres. The Swiss Red Cross also donated 513 mattresses, two bales of plastic sheetings and 150 diapers for the elderly. The ICRC provided Tuzla Cantonal Red Cross with 15-cubic metre mobile cisterns.

The Canadian Embassy donated 10,000 Canadian dollars to the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina which was used to procure food and hygiene parcels. UNHCR placed emergency supplies at Red Cross disposal.

The Royal Norwegian Embassy donated 5,000 DEM which has been spent on the purchase of food. The food, sent by truck to the Modrica Red Cross on 26 June, was distributed to the flood victims by the Red Cross volunteers.

As the response to the Appeal launched on 29 June 2001, the American Embassy granted US\$ 25,000 for immediate assistance. The Royal Netherlands Embassy also responded to the Emergency Appeal with 25,000 DEM.

The Swedish Red Cross donation, 390 bales of used clothes arrived on 11 July. The goods were stored in Sarajevo and distributed according to the Plan of Action. The Spanish Red Cross donated 1,260 blankets and 848 hygiene parcels which were stored in Sarajevo and distributed together with Swedish Red Cross donation. The RCSBiH identified 8,500 beneficiaries in five regions/cantons according to defined selection criteria. Purchasing and pre-positioning of 12,500 food parcels and 8,500 hygiene parcels in five regional warehouses started on 19 July 2001 and was completed on 27 July 2001.

Capacity of the National Society

The regional, cantonal, and/or local Red Cross secretaries and approximately 500 volunteers were engaged in the operation. In addition, two persons from the Entity Red Cross headquarters were deployed in the National Society’s Task Force to monitor and coordinate the activities.

The National Society’s Task Force developed a detailed Plan of Action based on the objectives stated in the Emergency Appeal. The implementation started in mid-July and to date the following has been accomplished:

Relief distributions w

Objective: Provide assistance for 8,500 of the poorest and most affected flood victims consisting of food and non-food relief items - primarily food and hygiene parcels.

Achievements

Identification of the 8,500 beneficiaries in five regions-cantons was made by the RCSBiH branches. Purchasing and pre-positioning of 12,500 food and 8,500 hygiene parcels in five regional warehouses started on 19 July 2001 and was completed on 27 July 2001. Pre-positioning of the relief items was made in accordance with the Plan of Distribution below:

Destination	Number of food parcels	Number of hygiene parcels
Tuzla Cantonal Red Cross	4,316	2,930
Doboj Regional Red Cross	1,969	1,339
Zenica Cantonal Red Cross	2,559	1,745
Banja Luka Regional Red Cross	2,700	1,836
Brcko City Red Cross	956	650
TOTAL	12,500	8,500

The distribution of individual food and hygiene parcels to selected beneficiaries started after the regional-cantonal Red Cross branches had received the goods. According to the Plan of Action the first distribution should be completed within one week after the goods are stored in the warehouses.

Water-sanitation w

Objective: Minimise occurrence of waterborne diseases through the facilitation of water purification and treatment of wells and water sources.

Achievements

According to the information from the field, there is a great need for various types of disinfectants. The National Society, in coordination with local authorities, decided to focus their activities on the purchase of chemicals for water purification since the contamination of the wells and water sources presents the greatest threat to the population of the affected areas. The National Society has assessed the potential of local suppliers who can provide the above mentioned chemicals.

Dissemination and Coordination w

Objective: Promote public awareness of the Red Cross and strengthen the image of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Achievements

During the first two weeks of disaster the daily reports on the current situation, compiled from the information received from the field, were submitted to the National Society, the Federation, and other relevant institutions and organisations.

All relevant media were contacted, and two press releases were issued. Media were provided with photos from the field. There has been a good response., with the daily newspaper "Oslobodjenje" regularly publishing articles on Red Cross activities in the field.

Entity Red Cross information departments are preparing visibility directions and guidelines for the local Red Cross organisations. It is planned that local media will be contacted and informed on activities of direct distribution to beneficiaries in order to promote the Red Cross.

National Society Capacity Building w

The National Society, supported by Federation's delegation, organised the regional DPP meeting in Neum from 9-11 July. One of the main purposes was to analyse and discuss the National Society's response to the disaster. Based on the outcome, necessary steps in the development of DP/ER strategies on the national and regional level could be identified. The two DPP coordinators from RCSBiH also presented locations in BiH prone for earthquakes, floods, fires, droughts and ecological disasters. It was concluded that the RCSBiH had adequate human resources but lacked material resources, which constrained disaster response. The position and role of the Red Cross within the state response system was considered a bigger problem for the RCSBiH.

International Federation Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Two delegates (a senior programme coordinator and senior finance delegate), and four locally recruited staff (an information officer, a DP/ER senior programme manager, a logistics manager and a programme manager), are involved in this operation. The programme manager has been appointed to the National Society working group with the task of assisting in coordination and implementation of the planned activities. The Federation logistics department was responsible for the procurement of the relief items and distribution in the five Red Cross regional warehouses, as the newly-established National Society has limited capacity for such activities.

Coordination

The International Federation has undertaken a major role in coordination of the international support to the National Society for the people affected by floods, primarily by liaising with embassies and international organisations in Sarajevo. As a result, the initial response and support has been positive (see attached list of contributions).

Outstanding Needs

Considerable progress has been achieved in delivering relief to many of the most vulnerable, but the National Society still needs CHF 193,422 to complete the operation within the three-month timeframe.

For further details please contact: desk officer for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Yugoslavia John English, Phone: 41 22 730 4466; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: english@ifrc.org or Ivana Mrdja, Phone 41 22 730 4380, email: mrdja@ifrc.org

Donors providing in-kind relief in response to large-scale emergencies are urged to the Federation's Logistics and Resource Mobilisation Department to avoid any unnecessary delays in the clearance and delivery of emergency relief assistance.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

*For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at **<http://www.ifrc.org>**.*

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Lynette Lowndes
Head
Europe Department

Bosnia & Herzegovina floods						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 19/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			03.08.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				474'944		59.3%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - GOVT		25'000	USD	43'750	22.06.2001	DIRECTLY TO THE DELEGATION
AUSTRIAN - RC				50'000	02.07.2001	
CANADIAN - RC		100'000	CAD	11'642	09.07.2001	
FINNISH - RC		33'637	EUR	51'300	03.07.2001	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		25'000	BAM	19'569	22.06.2001	DIRECTLY TO THE DELEGATION
NORWEGIAN - GOVT		5'000	DEM	3'914	21.06.2001	DIRECTLY TO THE DELEGATION
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		400'000	NOK	76'522	21.06.2001	
SWEDISH - RC		150'000	SEK	24'825	03.07.2001	HEALTH, WATER/SANITATION & DISSEMINATION
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				281'522	CHF	59.3%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%