



## SERBIA & MONTENEGRO/ KOSOVO: FLOODS

no. MDRKV001  
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*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 183 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin (no. MDRKV001) is being issued based on the situation described below, reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 131,249.48 (USD 102,538.66 or EUR 84,677.08) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs of this operation and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be completed in two months (25 February to 24 April 2006), and a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

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*All International Federation 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 is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

### Background and Current Situation

Melting snow and heavy rains over the last four days have caused flooding in at least fourteen municipalities across Kosovo: Rahovec, Vushtrri, Lipjan, Zvecan, Ferizaj, Skenderaj, Glogoc, Podujevo, Suhareke, Kline, Malishevo, Gjakove, Obiliq and Fushe Kosovoe. The increased water levels in the rivers has broken the banks/dams and has flooded the surrounding areas. The flooding has caused damage to houses and personal belongings, agricultural land and equipment, and the power system. Some villages in the rural and poorer part of the province have been inaccessible for several days. An estimated 200 families (approx. 1,200 people) had to be evacuated from the affected areas and sheltered in neighbouring villages.



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The increasing water level in the river Sitnica has broken a 30 year old dam and has flooded the 'Kosova B' power plant. The power company KEK had to temporarily shut down the two units of the plant, which together generate 560 MW of electricity. In addition, a number of transformer have been affected by the flooding, leaving several ten-thousands of people not just with an increased load shedding regime, but completely without electricity.



**The flooding has caused damage to houses and agricultural land**



**The flooding is worst in the rural areas**

The flooding is worst in the rural areas where the social problems of the province are affecting the highest number of people - a fragile economy, high unemployment, and a wide spectrum of social groups<sup>1</sup> in need of special assistance are just some of the pressing issues for Kosovo's institutions. With about 10% of the resident population (approx. 52,000 families with more than 197,000 family members) receiving the low social assistance benefits and many more families not eligible for such assistance due to highly restrictive criteria, the needs in the social sector are extremely high. These flooding thus have a further deteriorating effect on the social situation of the province as the majority of affected people already belong to the poorest of the province who are not in a position to cope with the situation on their own.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

The local Red Cross, with the assistance of the International Federation, is constantly assessing the situation and is in regular contacts with the local emergency departments in the affected municipalities. The Red Cross of Kosova (RCK) branches are taking part in the local emergency council meetings that were established following the floods. The branches are also working with other agencies involved in order to coordinate activities in the field.

The Red Cross was the first organisation to respond to the situation:

- Red Cross of Kosova (RCK), with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Federation, has immediately responded with the provision of blankets, mattresses and hygiene kits from their emergency buffer stock (donated by the ICRC to RCK in 2005) to the affected population.
- Red Cross of Kosovo and Metohija (RCKM) assisted a number of Roma families, who are still living in temporary accommodation since 1999 and whose huts have been flooded, with blankets clothing, hygiene parcels and food parcels.

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<sup>1</sup> Research carried out by the Red Cross Movement in 2005 showed that the most vulnerable social groups include: single female-headed households, youth, elderly, families of the missing, minorities and handicapped.

## The Needs

In response to the floods, the following items are required:

Item	No.
Blankets	800
Mattresses	800
Hygiene kits (standard family hygiene parcel)	600
Rubber boots	1000
Drinking water (bottled, 9 liters per family per day)	6000
Food (family food parcel for one month)	200
Jerry cans	500
Wood stoves	100
Firewood (2 m <sup>3</sup> per family)	200

The beneficiaries will return to their houses once the water has receded. However, many of their belongings have been destroyed or washed away and thus they will need some initial assistance to return to some degree of normality. As the temperatures are still very low, it will be critical to supply the beneficiaries with wood-stoves and fire wood (as they have been washed away or are completely wet). In addition, a number of the beneficiaries live in rural areas where drinking water still comes from open household wells. These wells have been contaminated by the flooding and thus the beneficiaries have to be supported with drinking water for a period of up to two months.

Some of the relief items may also be used to replenish some of the emergency relief buffer stock used up by the local Red Cross Organizations in their initial response to the situation.

## Federation Coordination

The Federation and both Red Cross organizations in Kosovo will closely cooperate in this emergency assistance. The operation will be coordinated by the branch secretaries of both Red Cross organizations in their areas of responsibility. Red Cross volunteers will be responsible for delivering the flood emergency assistance. All activities will be carried out in coordination with the local emergency departments and social welfare authorities.

## The proposed operation

### Objectives and Activities

**Goal:** Providing emergency flood assistance to affected population in Kosovo.

**Objective:** Distribute basic food and non-food items to 200 families (1,200 persons) during a two months period

### Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Preparation of beneficiary lists.
- Procurement of emergency items in Kosovo.
- Distribution of emergency items by RC volunteers according to the prepared beneficiary lists.
- Coordination with local emergency departments and social welfare authorities.
- Monitoring and reporting.



**The increased water levels in the rivers has broken the banks/dams and has flooded the surrounding areas**

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### Capacity of the National Society

The ability of the Red Cross organizations in Kosovo to respond to the situation is somewhat limited due to a significant lack of funds. Both organizations have only very limited relief stocks available because of continuous and constant demands for assistance in a socially extremely difficult situation throughout Kosovo. However, the greatest assets of both organizations are the numerous volunteers who are ready and able to provide emergency relief assistance.

Especially after the 1999 Kosovo conflict, the main activities of both Red Cross organizations were in the field of delivering emergency relief. Thus, all branches have significant experience and trained volunteers as well as management capacity to implement the emergency winterization assistance.

### Capacity of the Federation

The Federation re-established its office in Kosovo after the 1999 conflict. The current emphasis of the work is the support of both Red Cross organizations in Organizational Development, Disaster Management and Health & Care Programmes. The team, consisting of five national staff and one delegate, has significant experience in supporting emergency relief operations and will be able to provide any required support to the Red Cross organizations in the implementation of the emergency operation.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

The Federation and both Red Cross organizations will continuously monitor the needs of the beneficiaries and the emergency assistance provided in coordination with the local emergency departments and social welfare authorities. All assistance items provided to the beneficiaries will be logged in signed recipient lists.

### Budget Summary

Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	TOTAL
<b>Supplies</b>				
Blankets	800	Unit	18.00	14,400.00
Mattresses	800	Unit	20.00	16,000.00
Drinking water	6000	Unit	3.00	18,000.00
Food	200	Unit	27.00	5,400.00
Hygiene kits	600	Unit	9.00	5,400.00
Jerry cans	500	Unit	4.00	2,000.00
Rubber boots	1000	Unit	6.00	6,000.00
Wood Stoves	100	Unit	210.00	21,000.00
Wood for heating	200	Unit	109.00	21,800.00
Sub-Total				<b>110,000.00</b>
<b>Transport</b>				
Vehicle Fuel, Maintenance, Spare Parts				<b>2,612.00</b>
<b>Geneva Costs</b>				
Program Management Support (6.5%)				<b>8,010.53</b>
<b>Personnel</b>				
Nat/NS Staff-Local Staff Salary Support				<b>7,521.38</b>
<b>General / Admin</b>				
Office Rent, Telephone, Internet, etc				<b>1,555.57</b>
<b>Visibility</b>				
Stickers, labels on locally procured relief goods, etc				<b>1,550.00</b>
<b>TOTAL CHF</b>				<b>131,249.48</b>