



## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: HEATWAVE

**DREF Bulletin**  
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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 185 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 45,615 (USD 38,150 or EUR 27,718) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over one month, and will be completed by 8 September 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 8 December 2007). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity."

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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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

Over the past few weeks Bosnia and Herzegovina has been hit by an unusually severe heat wave, leading to drought and causing problems to the country's water supply. The situation is most critical in Herzegovina-Neretva canton including the municipalities of Neum, Stolac, Čitluk and Čapljina and the southern municipalities of eastern Herzegovina, Trebinje, Bileća and Berkovići. An exceptionally long period without rain has been followed by extremely high temperatures of up to 42 degrees Celsius. The heat and dry conditions have sparked a rash of fires threatening settlements in many locations, especially in the municipalities of Trebinje, Bileća, Berkovići, Neum, Stolac, Čitluk and Čapljina, where the local authorities have declared a state of disaster at the local level.

The rural parts of the above-mentioned municipalities, which are not connected to the city water supply, are the most vulnerable. The inhabitants of these areas have taken water from wells, but this source is also becoming exhausted.

Local authorities are trying to meet the needs of the population by providing water cisterns to the affected areas. Although the water provided in the cisterns is free of charge, people are expected to pay for transportation. Since many do not have the means to pay, more and more people from the rural areas are requesting assistance from the local Red Cross branches.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Volunteers from the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH) are visiting the affected areas to compile a list of the water supply needs and establish where the priorities lie. The initial assessment found the needs to be<sup>1</sup>:

Vulnerable municipality	Number of communities	Number of inhabitants	Number of cisterns needed
Stolac	11	3,000	150
Citluk	6	1,500	130
Neum	8	1,700	120
Čapljina	12	3,500	160
Trebinje	8	1,150	110
Bileca	5	3,606	164
Berkovici	1	160	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>14,616</b>	<b>853</b>

Since the weather forecast shows that the period without rain will continue, and the local authorities are not able to cope with the situation alone, the needs indicated in the table are expected to become greater. Therefore, the RCSBiH requested an allocation from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to assist in supplying drinking water to the affected population.

## Objectives and activities planned

**Objective:** To provide assistance in the form of drinking water for 14,616 people most severely affected by the heatwave.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- identify the beneficiaries according to the defined selection criteria. Preparation of the beneficiary lists will be done by the RCBiH branches;
- distribute emergency relief (drinking water);

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<sup>1</sup> This assessment was made on 31 July 2007.

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- report to the National Society headquarters and the Federation representation on the activities implemented. A final evaluation report on the relief operation will also be written.

The water will be provided to people free of charge, with no charge made for transport either. The water will be transported to the vulnerable areas by the fire brigade and communal firms. Red Cross branches will organize the water distribution in cooperation with the Civil Protection, neighbourhood communities and with neighbourhood community representatives. These representatives will play a role in defining the lists of beneficiaries.

### Dissemination and Coordination

**Objective:** To promote the activities and strengthen the image of RCSBiH.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- ensure the National Society is visible during the relief distributions, while visiting beneficiaries and when volunteers are conducting monitoring and evaluation at the Red Cross branches;
- use the National Society emblem prominently during the operation;
- provide the media with coverage of the work of the Red Cross.

This operation will also:

- promote the response capability of the RCSBiH during emergencies;
- promote cooperation between Red Cross branches and authorities;
- promote cooperation between entity Red Cross branches;
- define roles and responsibilities of the different actors (communities, local authorities, national and international organizations).

### Capacity of the National Society

The RCSBiH is highly experienced in relief operations. The National Society has 20 cantonal and 148 local branches throughout the country and is supported by over 4,500 volunteers. There are three disaster preparedness coordinators, a disaster management team at the National Society headquarters level, four Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members, 20 cantonal coordinators and 28 Emergency Response Teams (ERTs).

### Monitoring and evaluation

The disaster management team from the RCSBiH is responsible for verifying the list of users. They will monitor whether distribution is going according to plan and whether the intended beneficiaries are actually receiving water by taking a random sample of users. An evaluation will be made not later than two weeks after distribution has taken place.

### Budget summary

Vulnerable municipality	Number of communities	Average cost per cistern (CHF)	Total cost (CHF)
Stolac	150	50	7,500
Čitluk	130	50	6,500
Neum	120	50	6,000
Čapljina	160	50	8,000
Trebinje	110	50	5,500
Bileca	164	50	8,200
Berkovici	19	50	950
PSR			2,965
	<b>853</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45,615</b>

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