

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Bosnia and Herzegovina: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRBA003  
GLIDE n° FL-2009-000044-BIH  
Update n° 1  
1 April, 2009

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

### Period covered by this update: 17 February to 17 March, 2009.

**Summary:** CHF 100,000 (USD 86,374 or EUR 66,906) was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 17 February, 2009 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to 2,630 beneficiaries from 765 families, and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

Heavy rainfall in the second half of January and early February caused flooding in the southern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Food reserves were destroyed and water sources contaminated, and vast areas of cultivated land were flooded. The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina supported the affected population with food and non-food items in order to overcome the most urgent needs.



Photo 1: Flooded landscape in Popovo Polje. Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This operation was expected to be implemented in one month, however, it was extended by one month until 17 April due to delayed procurement and distribution. A Final Report will be made available by 17 July, 2009.

The Netherlands Red Cross contributed 22,292 Swiss francs from the Silent Emergency Fund to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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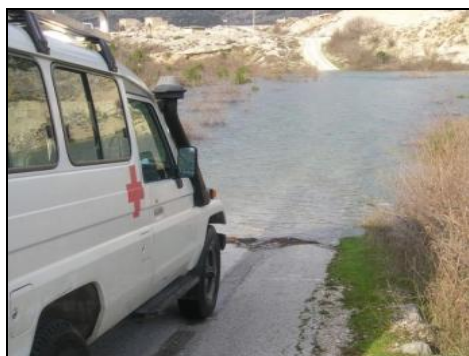
## The situation

Heavy rainfall from January to early February caused flooding in the southern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The vast water masses severely affected the population in the municipalities of Trebinje, Popovo polje, Ravno, Neum and Svitava. Some 2,600 people from 765 families were affected, and almost 170 houses were flooded. The most acute needs following the floods were food, water and hygiene items.

Following the rainfall lake Bilečko and Trebišnjica river flooded vast areas. The power plants “Grančarevo”, “Dubrovnik” and “Čapljina” have been operating at full capacity in order to take away the vast water masses. However, the Grančarevo power plant had to release water from its dams due to the water level, and together with underground water, this resulted in Trebišnjica river flooding areas downstream of Trebinje, particularly Popovo polje and downstream towards Čapljina. Some 90 per cent of Popovo polje was flooded and settlements in Trebinje and Ravno were affected.

In terms of needs and damages the most acute problems were loss of food supplies and access to clean drinking water. In addition almost 170 houses were affected with cellars and ground floors flooded, and food and other household items destroyed. Neum municipality declared a state of emergency due to comprehensive damages.

The potential longer-term consequences of the floods are considered as serious since huge areas of cultivated land were flooded. In the municipalities of Ravno and Popovo polje several hundred hectares of cultivated land sown with wheat, barley, beans, potatoes and lettuce were flooded. In addition orchards and vineyards were affected. All planted seeds were destroyed and limited or no harvest is expected in the longer-term.



**Photo 2:** Road blocked by water masses.  
**Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina.**

The floods also affected communication. Roads were flooded and the only bridge accessible in the area has been the one connecting Ravno and Ljubinje.

Following assessments of the affected areas 2,630 persons were identified in need of support. The operation has been extended by one month due to the delayed start of procurement and subsequently the distribution of food and hygiene parcels. Although delayed, the operation in terms of distribution of relief items is now ongoing and reaching out to affected persons and families.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, through a team consisting of regional disaster response team (RDRT) members and disaster management coordinators from the National Society, has been cooperating with the International Federation in assessing, implementing and monitoring the situation and the operation. Hence the International Federation, in coordination with the team, has coordinated the international support to the National Society. The Federation office in Sarajevo has been in charge of quotations tendering procedures, signing of contracts and financial administration. Regular meetings have been organized between the National Society and the International Federation in which the National Society's response to the disaster has been analysed and discussed. Furthermore necessary steps in the development of disaster management strategies at national level have also been identified.

The disaster team has, in cooperation with Civil Protection, been involved in all field activities from early assessment to joint identification of beneficiaries. Furthermore liaison with the civil defence department for joint identification of beneficiaries was initiated. The latter has contributed to building cooperation and stronger relations between the National Society and the civil defence. The relief operation has also contributed to improving the cooperation between the Red Cross and local authorities. Roles and responsibilities of various actors in disaster response have been better defined and coping mechanisms of local communities have been improved. Also agricultural expertise was consulted in order to assess the situation.

Staff and volunteers from the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina have, through their engagement in the relief operation, established better cooperation with mine awareness volunteers within the National Society. Together they intensified the National Society's work on informing the population about the risk of mines in the affected areas due to great concern that land mines may have been washed away by the floods and later appear in previously land mine clean areas.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The National Society has been supported by the International Federation in responding to the floods situation. Joint field visits to collect information about the extent of the emergency, assessment of needs

among the affected population and implementation of the operation has thus been undertaken by the National Society and the International Federation in cooperation. Civil protection units from early on provided some assistance to the affected population and fire fighters were engaged in pumping water from underground premises and providing drinking water for the population in one part of Trebinje municipality.

## Progress towards objectives

In order to provide the most vulnerable flood victims with basic relief support, the International Federation allocated CHF 100,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). According to the plan of action developed by the National Society 765 food parcels, 765 hygiene parcels and a number of jerry cans were to be purchased.

To get a more detailed picture of the situation to provide the most needed people with relevant support, a thorough assessment was carried out shortly after the DREF allocation was made. Following the assessment the National Society concluded to procure water equipment. In total 60 electric water pumps, 10 water pumps powered by petrol and 10 water tanks with a capacity of 1,000 litres each were procured. This equipment replaced the initially planned procurement of 10 and 20 litre jerry cans.

Beneficiary selection criteria were defined following the assessment. According to these criteria the following groups were identified as target groups: families who had lost their food supplies; elderly and bed-ridden people over 60 and living alone; people with disabilities; socially endangered persons with very young children; and self-supporting mothers. In total 2,630 persons were identified as in need of support.

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: The 765 vulnerable families in the affected areas are provided with food parcels to cope with the loss of food supplies.**

**Activities planned:** Procure and distribute food parcels through volunteers to identified beneficiaries according to Federation standards. Monitor, evaluate and report on implemented activities.



**Photo 3:** Procured food parcels. Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Progress and impact:** Relief items were procured locally in order to ensure efficient implementation of the operation and to support the local economy. The procurement process was organized by the International Federation's office in Sarajevo together with the National Society. All selected suppliers observed the time frame for delivery of items as stipulated in the procurement contract and delivered the items to the two entity warehouses in Pale and Sarajevo. The National Society managed to procure 235 food parcels more than planned bringing the number of parcels to 1,000. This was due to lower prices than expected. The additional parcels were used for replenishing the National Society's emergency stocks. Table 1a and 1b shows the location and the content of the food parcels.

1a) Location	Food parcels
Federal Red Cross of BiH	500
Red Cross of Republic Srpska	300
BiH RC NS headquarters	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>

**Table 1a and 1b:** Procurement location, number, and content of procured food parcels

The distribution of food parcels started immediately upon delivery of the goods to entity warehouses. The distribution started on 19 March and was finalized on 26 March.

1b) Food parcel item	Amount
Wheat flour	10 kg
Edible Sunflower Oil	1 ltr
Sugar	1 kg
Salt	1 kg
Beans	1 kg
Canned beef	1 kg
Canned vegetables	1 kg
Pasta	2 kg
Cheese	0,5 kg
Dried yeast	0,125 kg (5 bags)

The Federal Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Red Cross of Republic Srpska distributions of food parcels is shown in table 2a and 2b below:

Federal Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina			
2a)	Location	Food Parcels	Date of distribution
	Mostar	100	19.03.2009
	Neum	100	20.03.2009
	Capljina	50	24.03.2009
	Ravno	50	25.03.2009
	Citluk	20	23.03.2009
	Jablanica	20	19.03.2009
	Konjic	20	19.03.2009
	Prozor/Rama	20	19.03.2009
	Stolac	20	23.03.2009
	<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>5 days</b>

**Table 2a and 2b:** Distribution of food parcels in floods affected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Red Cross of Republic Srpska			
2b)	Location	Food Parcels	Date of distribution
	Rastoci	51	23.03.2009
	Otok	24	24.03.2009
	Rupe	19	25.03.2009
	Pridvorci	14	25.03.2009
	Velicani	22	26.03.2009
	Dracevo	11	26.03.2009
	Drijenjani	8	26.03.2009
	Galicici	4	26.03.2009
	Sedlari	9	23.03.2009
	Grmljani	11	26.03.2009
	Zavala	13	26.03.2009
	<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>4 days</b>

Of the 1,000 food parcels procured 414 will be stored as follows: Red Cross of Republic Srpska 114; the Federal Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina 200; and the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina headquarters 100. Parcels to be stored include the 235 parcels which were procured extra due to lower prices than expected. The parcels will be stored until 30 March.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Objective 1:** The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water and the use of water pumps and jerry cans, until the existing water infrastructure is safe for usage.

**Objective 2:** The risk of an outbreak of infectious diseases is reduced through provision of hygiene parcels to 765 families in the affected area.

**Activities planned:** Procure and distribute hygiene parcels through volunteers to identified beneficiaries according to Federation standards. Monitor, evaluate and report on implemented activities. Furthermore water pumps and water tanks will be procured and safe water will be provided to 765 families in the affected areas. Potable water and hygiene promotion will target 1,400 families in the same area.

**Progress and impact:** The procurement and distribution of hygiene parcels has taken place alongside the procurement and distribution of food parcels. As with the latter, 1,000 hygiene parcels were procured instead of the planned 765. Table 3a and 3b shows the location of procured parcels and their content.

3a)	Location	Hygiene parcels
	Federal Red Cross of BiH	500
	Red Cross of Republic Srpska	300
	RCSBiH headquarters	200
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>

**Table 3a and 3b:** Number and content of procured hygiene parcels

3b)	Hygiene parcel item	Amount
	Washing powder	1 kg
	Detergent for dishes	1 ltr
	Toothpaste	1 tube
	Toothbrush	1 piece
	Washing soap	1 piece (100 gr)
	Shampoo	1 ltr
	Sanitary napkins	1 set
	Bic razor	2 pcs

The Federal Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Red Cross of Republic Srpska distributed hygiene parcels in floods affected locations as shown in table 4a and 4b below:

Federal Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina			
4a)	Location	Food Parcels	Date of distribution
	Mostar	100	19.03.2009
	Neum	100	20.03.2009
	Capljina	50	24.03.2009
	Ravno	50	25.03.2009
	Citluk	20	23.03.2009
	Jablanica	20	19.03.2009
	Konjic	20	19.03.2009
	Prozor/Rama	20	19.03.2009
	Stolac	20	23.03.2009
	<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>5 days</b>

**Table 4a and 4b:** Distribution of hygiene parcels in floods affected areas in Bosnia and.

Red Cross of Republic Srpska			
4b)	Location	Food Parcels	Date of distribution
	Rastoci	51	23.03.2009
	Otok	24	24.03.2009
	Rupe	19	25.03.2009
	Pridvorci	14	25.03.2009
	Velicani	22	26.03.2009
	Dracevo	11	26.03.2009
	Drijenjani	8	26.03.2009
	Galicici	4	26.03.2009
	Sedlari	9	23.03.2009
	Grmljani	11	26.03.2009
	Zavala	13	26.03.2009
	<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>4 days</b>

Location	Water tank 1000 ltr.	Electric water pump	Water pump petrol 5 hp
Federal Red Cross of BiH	4	20	4
Red Cross of Republic Srpska	4	20	4
RCSBiH headquarters	2	20	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>10</b>

**Table 5:** Procured water equipment and location

The National Society procured 60 electrical water pumps, 10 water pumps powered by petrol and 10 water tanks with a capacity of 1,000 litres each. The tanks were installed for provision of water to the affected population. The equipment will be kept in central warehouses in Sarajevo and Pale and used in a case of future emergencies.

### National Society Capacity Building:

The National Society's disaster management structures, including its team consisting of RDRT members, have been able to provide vital assistance to the affected population. The DREF allocation was decisive in this respect as the National Society lacks material resources such as food and hygiene parcels in stock. There were no major impediments in the field during the implementation of the operation. However, the management and coordination capacity at the National Society headquarters level need to be further strengthened. The National Society will conduct a presidency meeting on 30 March 2009 in which one of the topics is the National Society's disaster management programme. The presidency will analyse the disaster management capacity and identify necessary steps in the development of a disaster management strategy at the national level.

The operation has also contributed to increased and enhanced coordination both within the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as with external partners such as the civil defence.

### Communication – Advocacy and public information

**Objective:** Promotion of activities of the Red Cross and strengthening of the RCSBiH image.

The National Society has been promoting Red Cross activities and has aimed to improve its image among the public through its volunteers in providing support to the affected population. In responding to the floods the National Society has presented itself as a responsible humanitarian actor. The emblem of the National Society and International Federation was used on food and hygiene parcels, which maximized the visibility of the Red Cross in the field. A monitoring team from the National Society has been responsible for verifying the validity of beneficiary lists through random checks.

Disaster preparedness coordinators from the National Society prepared guidelines for local Red Cross branches on how to involve and cooperate with local media to ensure visibility of the Red Cross during the distribution of relief items to the beneficiaries. Furthermore representatives in the field of the National Society gave interviews to the media. Moreover a press conference was organized to inform the public about the role and responsibilities of the Red Cross and the measures undertaken.

A survey among the people assisted by the operation will be conducted in the first week of April 2009. The main purpose of the survey, which will be supported by the International Federation, is to find out what the beneficiaries thought about the goods and services they received and whether they have any recommendations for improving the quality and appropriateness of relief operations in the future. The survey will also contribute to enhancing the visibility of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, especially the National Society. The survey will be conducted in parallel to a survey on the cold wave operation implemented by the National Society in January and February following the DREF launched on 23 January, 2009 (<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/09/MDRBA002do.pdf>). Survey results will be included in the final DREF reports due in June and July respectively.

## How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

## Contact information

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