

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Albania: Floods

Preliminary final report
DREF operation n° MDRAL002
GLIDE n° - 2009-000266-ALB
28 June, 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 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.

Summary: CHF 302,500 was allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 11 January, 2010 to support the National Society in delivering assistance to some 2,200 families and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks.

The Albanian Red Cross with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other Movement partners as well as international and local donors, addressed the needs of 2,200 families through two rounds of distributions. Families were provided with basic food and non-food relief items including food, blankets, hygiene kits, soaps and mattresses.

The families were covered twice owing to repeated floods in the same areas as initially affected and thanks to the released funds and donations from various actors, and due to lower prices of blankets.

Awareness-raising activities were conducted to inform the communities about health and hygiene issues, including water contamination.

Non-food items were replenished and a few items added to the National Society's disaster preparedness stock through transparent tender procedures. However parts of the tender lasted longer than expected and that meant that the operation had to be extended with one month until 11 May, to allow the National Society to complete the purchase of the non-food items.

The Netherlands Red Cross contributed CHF 59,085, the Canadian government CHF 49,940, and ECHO CHF 162,325 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

This is a preliminary final report. Some bookings are still being made and therefore the final financial report will be ready only in the last quarter of July.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)



Relief distribution in Livadhe suburb of Shkodra town. Photo: Albanian Red Cross

The situation

Shkodra prefecture is located in the north-western part of Albania, 120 km from the capital of Tirana. It is situated beneath the three hydroelectric power dikes of Fierza, Koman and Vau i Dejes which, in case of notable increases in the level of water, presents a great risk for the area and the people living there. Owing to heavy rainfall in January and February 2010, accompanied by the melting of waste masses of snow, the level of water in the river Drini increased significantly. Consequently the level of water increased in the three hydroelectricity power lakes of Fierza, Koman and Vau i Dejes, fed by river Drini.

Although the maximum amount of water for producing electricity was used in order to keep the level of water in the lakes under control, the authorities were obliged to open the emergency gates to release water from the lakes not to endanger the dikes from bursting or creating catastrophic flooding in and around the dikes.

The increased water flows together with heavy rainfalls thus caused flooding in the flat area of Shkodra Prefecture in the beginning of January and on two other occasions in February and March. Albanian authorities declared a natural disaster on 5 January in Shkodra and Lezha prefectures, where uncontrolled water flooded populated areas and resulted in the evacuation of thousands of people.

Despite appeals by the authorities calling on women, children and older people to leave their homes to avoid the floods, some inhabitants refused to leave their homes, utilities, belongings and livestock (cattle), fearing that they would lose them in the floods.

During the response to the floods, the same area was flooded on two other occasions due to heavy rainfall and the release of water from the Fierza, Koman and Vau Dejes dams. According to official data from local authorities, in total 11,500 hectares of land was flooded, 4,600 people evacuated and 4,100 houses flooded. Furthermore, 11 Roma families were accommodated in a military building in the village of Renc, while 83 women and children were accommodated on the sites of a local NGO. In Shkodra town 120 families were accommodated in a student dormitory.

Assessments conducted by Albania Red Cross revealed the following damages to households:

- Damages on houses
- Damaged on housing equipment and furniture
- Damages to livestock and livestock food
- Loss of winter reserves of corns and vegetables
- Loss of corn plants

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Albania Red Cross closely coordinated its activities with local and national authorities. In accordance with the Emergency Situation Law, an emergency management group was set up in Shkodra and Lezha prefectures in which the Red Cross branches in Shkodra and Lezha were represented. Moreover the National Society carried out regular meetings with the Director of Civil Emergency in the Ministry of Interior and the Prefect of Shkodra Prefecture. A member of the regional disaster response team (RDRT) was deployed by IFRC for a two-week mission to support the Albanian Red Cross in implementing the planned relief activities.

The Albania Red Cross carried out an assessment to estimate and to get an overview over the damages caused to houses, food reserves, livestock and to identify the needs among the affected population. The disaster management coordinator from the headquarters advised and assisted the Shkodra branch during the response. In addition to branch staff around 30 trained volunteers were involved in the activities.

The Red Cross volunteers were involved from the very beginning in evacuating people, raising awareness, collecting information, assisting the 11 Roma families accommodated in the village of Renc and the 83 women and children accommodated on the sites of the local NGO. Moreover the volunteers conducted a preliminary needs assessment and monitored the situation. The Shkodra branch purchased local food for four days for the Roma families. After this a local NGO continued providing food for them. Upon people's return to their homes, they received the standard ration of food and non-food items from the Albanian Red Cross. Some 200 hygiene kits were distributed to the 83 women and children and to 120 other families accommodated in the student dormitory.

Seven local Red Cross branches organized local fund-raising campaigns to assist the people in need in Shkodra. Moreover the branches collected food items and clothes, which were delivered to the Shkodra branch for further distribution.

In response to the situation, several partners within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as well as external actors sent relief assistance or offered support. Table 1 shows the type of support, partner as well as the items and/or amount of support.

Support	Partner	Items and/or amount
In-kind and funds	The Red Cross Society of the FYR of Macedonia.	4 tonnes of hygiene materials, sleeping bags, and kitchen sets; 22 tonnes of drinking water and non-alcoholic beverages; EUR 7,000.
In-kind	The Turkish Red Crescent	350 food parcels and 7 large medical kits.
	The Red Cross of Kosova	Appr. 35 tonnes of food and 1,500 boxes with clothes and shoes.
	The Hungarian Red Cross	10 tonnes of pasta, corn flakes and sweet cereals.
	The Malta Red Cross	63 boxes of second-hand materials (blankets, pillows, covers, sheets) and 214 mattresses.
	The Liahona foundation	18 tonnes of food
Funds	USAID	USD 50,000
	The Vodafon Foundation Albania	USD 40,000
	The Chinese Red Cross*	USD 30,000

Table 1: Category of support, partners and items and/or amount of support. *Through the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Albania.

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Outcome: Provided humanitarian assistance to 2,200 families in the most affected villages in Shkodra prefecture, twice, with the basic food and non-food items.
<p>Outputs and activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the final lists of beneficiaries together with the local management commission and local authorities • Procure and deliver relief supplies to the beneficiaries • Organize seven awareness raising activities with the communities to discuss individual and community hygiene • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and report on the relief distributions • As part of the monitoring and evaluation activities, conduct a survey among people reached to find out what they felt about the goods and services they received and whether their needs were met.

Impact

The initial objective of the operation was to support 2,200 affected families with humanitarian assistance including food and non-food items. Owing to repeated floods in the same areas as initially affected, and to the support from IFRC and sister Red Cross Red Crescent Societies' and other local and international donors, the Albania Red Cross was able to address the needs of 2,200 families twice, through two rounds of distributions.

The president and secretary general of the National Society met the Minister of Interior who is also heading the Inter-Ministerial Commission which coordinates the actions of involved actors during civil emergencies. The National Society informed the commission about its response operation and the assistance to the affected families in Shkodra prefecture.

The operation was carried out in cooperation with the authorities in Shkodra prefecture and the heads of communes affected by the floods. After receiving the lists of affected people from the authorities, the Red Cross branch in Shkodra verified the accuracy of the lists. Subsequently the branch prepared final lists of families to be reached and informed the families about the date and place of distributions. Moreover volunteer teams prepared for the distributions and finally carried out the distribution.

The families to be reached were selected according to the following criteria:

- Evacuated families accommodated at their relatives
- Families with serious damages to their homes, housing equipment and destroyed winter reserves of corns and vegetables
- Roma families affected by the floods

Each family	1st round of distribution	2nd round of distribution
<i>Food parcel</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25kg white flour • 5kg rice • 5 litres vegetable oil • 5kg sugar • 5kg white beans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25kg white flour • 5kg rice • 5 litres vegetable oil • 5kg sugar • 5kg white beans • 6 bottles of water
<i>Non-food items</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 blankets • 1 hygiene kit • 8 pieces of soap • 1 mattress (380 only) • 1 box with clothes and shoes 	N/A

Two rounds of distributions of food and non-food items targeting the same 2,200 families were carried out. See left for items distributed to each family (table 2)

Table 2: Food and non-food items to each of the 2,200 families reached in two rounds of distribution.

The total number of distributed items for the 2,200 families were:

Food items	Quantities distributed in total	No. of distributed items covered by DREF
White flour (million tonnes)	110	78
Rice (million tonnes)	22	13,4
Vegetable oil (litres)	22,000	16,400
Sugar (million tonnes)	22	19
White beans (million tonnes)	22	13,5
Non food items	Quantities distributed in total	No. of items replenished/ added to NS stock
Blankets (pieces)	9,600	9,850
Hygiene kits (pieces)	2,500	2,500
Mattresses (pieces)	380	550

Beside these amounts other items donated in-kind by donors were distributed including: 1,560 boxes of clothes and shoes, 20,000 litres of bottled water, and 3 million tonnes of pasta and cereals.

Table 3: Total number of food and non-food items distributed and number of food items covered by DREF and non-food items replenished or added to the National Society's stock.

The number of families and people assisted by the Albanian Red Cross and their place of residence were:

Location	No. families reached	No. people reached
Shkodra municipality (Ajazem, Bachallek, Livadhe)*	436	1,834
Communes in Shkodra		
Dajc	520	2,051
Ana Malit	144	712
Gur i Zi	297	1195
Berdice	90	364
Bushat	312	1,298
Qender, Rrethina	36	170
Velipoje	245	1140
Commune Shengjin in Lezha	120	586
TOTAL	2,200	9,350

Table 4: Number of families and people reached and place of residence.*Suburbs belonging to Shkodra municipality.



Relief distribution by the Albanian Red Cross. Photo: Albania Red Cross.

Procurement of food and non-food items

The non-food items were distributed from the National Society's disaster preparedness stock, while food items were purchased from suppliers with whom Albania Red Cross had signed agreements in advance. The National Society's tender commission negotiated quantities and prices with the suppliers and then signed contracts with them. The quantities purchased for each item was calculated taking into consideration the number of beneficiaries, standard ration and donors' in-kind donation.

The purchase for replenishing the items distributed from the disaster preparedness stock as well as adding a few more items was initiated through a tendering procedure. The tender was announced in several newspapers. The tender process was managed by the tender commission, following the necessary steps specified by the Albania Red Cross administrative regulations.

Four companies provided offers, out of fourteen, which received the item specifications. Following the screening two companies were selected to provide mattresses and hygiene kits. With support from the Federation Europe zone in Budapest, the blankets were procured from the Federation Logistic Unit in Dubai because of lack of qualified companies and time constraints. Because of this the tender process lasted longer than expected and led to an extension of the operation with one month, which meant that the operation lasted until 11 May 2010.

Please see table 3 and *Number of distributed items covered by DREF and Number of items replenished or added to the National Society's stock.*

Besides relief distributions, awareness-raising activities were conducted to inform the communities about various health issues:

- Materials were developed promoting individual and community hygiene. This was conducted in cooperation with the Department for Public Health. Some 2,000 posters and 40,000 flyers were printed and distributed by Shkodra branch volunteers.
- Meetings and discussions took place involving teachers, students and community members in seven elementary and middle schools covering issues such as water contamination and disinfection. In the framework of health activities recently implemented by the Shkodra branch, two community actions were organized in Shkodra town and Dajc commune with the involvement of 30 volunteers. With the aim of mobilizing community members to initiate and engage in health activities in emergencies the actions included house cleaning, disinfection of trees and gathering of garbage.

Evaluation of the operation

Monitoring of distributions and evaluation among people reached and other stakeholders brought several important findings to the attention of the National Society:

- The Albania Red Cross established a good cooperation with Emergency Management Commission and other local authorities, specifying the specific contribution of the National Society and work areas for each actor involved in the emergency operation.
- The parcels from the Albania Red Cross were highly appreciated by people reached, not only for their content, but also due to the fact that families received standard rations, meaning that all families received similar amount of items. Complaints among people receiving support from others were registered because families received packages of different sizes.
- The distribution process was carried out according to criteria for identifying people to be reached (see page 3) and was transparent towards all stakeholders. The list of people to be reached and the ration of items per family was published in visible places at distribution points.
- Red Cross visibility was ensured in each stage of the operation through emblems on food packages, use of volunteer uniforms, marked Red Cross trucks and boards.
- Volunteers previously trained in assessment and disaster response proved to be an invaluable part of the operation. The training resulted in an organized operation and meant that potential problems towards or between people reached was foreseen and accommodated.

Challenges

No major constraints occurred during the relief distributions. Minor challenges were faced concerning the lists of people to be reached provided by the community leaders. However these issues were solved with additional verification of people to be reached. Owing to repeated floods in the areas the needs of affected

families were apparently increasing. Thus, thanks to the released funds and donations from various actors, and due to lower prices of blankets the targeted 2,200 families were assisted two times.

While the purchase of food items was accomplished according to pre-signed contracts with suppliers, the purchase of non-food items was delayed as no pre-agreement was in place, thus prolonging the time needed for procuring the needed items.

Communications

The communications coordinator of the National Society regularly prepared and shared information with the media. The president of the Albanian Red Cross organized a press conference where the media was informed about the conclusion of the emergency relief operation in Shkodra.

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 Disaster 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:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In the Albanian Red Cross Society:** Zamir Muca, Secretary General, phone: + 355 42 22 5855, email: zmuca@kksh.org.al
- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Slobodanka Curic, Disaster Management Coordinator, Budapest, phone: +36 1 8884 510, fax: +36 1 336 1516, email: slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator, phone: +41 22 730 4381, fax: +41 22 733 0395, email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRAL002 - Albania - Floods

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2010/1-2010/5
Budget Timeframe	2010/1-2010/5
Appeal	MDRAL002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	302,500					302,500
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	302,500					302,500
C6. Other Income	302,500					302,500
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	302,500					302,500
D. Total Funding = B + C	302,500					302,500
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	302,500					302,500
E. Expenditure	-215,156					-215,156
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	87,344					87,344

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		302,500					302,500	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	135,400	17,202				17,202	118,198	
Food	81,450	105,960				105,960	-24,510	
Teaching Materials	4,000						4,000	
Other Supplies & Services	34,905	38,615				38,615	-3,710	
Total Supplies	255,755	161,777				161,777	93,978	
Transport & Storage								
Storage		5,450				5,450	-5,450	
Distribution & Monitoring	3,500						3,500	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,000	9,758				9,758	-5,758	
Total Transport & Storage	7,500	15,208				15,208	-7,708	
Personnel								
Regionally Deployed Staff	6,000	1,500				1,500	4,500	
National Society Staff	6,483	9,664				9,664	-3,181	
Total Personnel	12,483	11,164				11,164	1,319	
General Expenditure								
Travel	2,000	3,460				3,460	-1,460	
Information & Public Relation	2,300	5,184				5,184	-2,884	
Office Costs		24				24	-24	
Communications	1,000	994				994	6	
Financial Charges		2,388				2,388	-2,388	
Other General Expenses	3,000						3,000	
Total General Expenditure	8,300	12,049				12,049	-3,749	
Programme Support								
Program Support	18,462	13,132				13,132	5,331	
Total Programme Support	18,462	13,132				13,132	5,331	
Services								
Services & Recoveries		1,826				1,826	-1,826	
Total Services		1,826				1,826	-1,826	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	302,500	215,156				215,156	87,344	
VARIANCE (C - D)		87,344				87,344		