

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

CROATIA: FLOODS

24 September, 2001

Information Bulletin N° 1

DREF Allocated: CHF 27,000

This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below. CHF 27,000 has been released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to assist in procuring and distributing additional relief items, and the Federation does not anticipate further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the quarterly DREF update. Donor support is needed to reimburse the funds allocated from the DREF.

The Situation

Severe storms combined with heavy rainfall during the period from 6 to 9 September 2001 resulted in the Vucica and Pistanec Rivers (and their tributaries) overflowing their banks. The average rainfall during September is 95.9 mm, but on 6 September alone 170.5 mm were registered. Streams of rainwater running down the slopes caused damage to local streets and roads, bridges and houses. Some 10,000 hectares of cultivated land and houses in the area were heavily flooded for days.

The affected area is located from the central Slavonia Mountains (Papuk Psunj and Krndija) to the Drava river which borders Hungary. The disaster-affected territory is some 20 km in radius. The towns of Orahovica and Našice were affected by the floods, but the most affected villages and hamlets were Zdenci, Kutovi, Slavonske Bare, Cacinci, Staro Petrovo Polje, Pausinci, Crnac, Nova Bukovica, Djurdjenovac, Moticina, Boksic, and Teodorovac.



Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Croatian Red Cross headquarters, supported by its branches, immediately carried out a field assessment which indicated that some 1,200 people (400 households) are estimated to have been affected by the floods and had to temporarily evacuate their homes. While water levels started to recede after a few days at some locations,

in other places the water level is decreasing much more slowly due to the heavy continuous rainfall. Houses were left covered in mud and very humid, which will make the drying process longer and living conditions of those affected very difficult during the forthcoming winter. The foundations of many houses are damaged and unstable. Although no houses have collapsed so far, a major risk still exists and as a consequence some villagers cannot move back to their homes yet.

The flooding has also affected an estimated 400 water wells, and the Croatian Red Cross water sanitation team have already started, where feasible, to clean wells. The flooded area is one of the main farming belts in the country, and a large portion of the cultivated land is now unsuitable for the annual autumn seeding.

The International Federation's Regional Office in Budapest, working in close co-operation with the Croatian Red Cross, are monitoring the situation in co-ordination with governmental and local authorities. The Croatian Red Cross has developed and shown the capacity to respond to natural disasters. Effective co-operation was established with the Croatian Civil Defence at the time of the disaster. The Croatian Red Cross immediately dispatched the following items from its emergency reserve stocks to the affected area: 156 pieces of food parcels, 800 kg of sugar, 825 kg of pasta, 600 kg of soup, 1,240 kg of beans, 180 blankets, 2 cartons of women's hygiene items, 2 cartons of toilet paper, 48 baby bottles, 400 pieces of soap, 450 kg of washing powder, and clothes.

The value of the Croatian Red Cross assistance rendered to date is CHF 40,000, and the emergency stocks will need to be refurbished. Additional items are urgently needed, and the Croatian Red Cross, after consultations with the Civil Defence, appealed to the Federation for this support. The additional items needed (a value of CHF 27,000) are: 140 pairs of boots, 260 cartons of diapers, 580 blankets, 12 rolls/units of plastic sheeting/tarpaulin, and 600 litres of disinfectant.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact:

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

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