

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

SERBIA: FLOODS

Information bulletin
no. 01/2007
28 November 2007

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 186 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve 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>

The Situation



A flooded street in Doljevac.

After heavy rains on 25 and 26 November 2007, the southern and south-eastern part of Serbia has suffered flash-floods from the rivers of Lužnica, Vlasina, Jablanica, Rogoz, Nišava, Južna Morava, Crvena reka and Pusta reka. The following municipalities reported damage, in both urban and rural parts of their territory: Pirot, Babušnica, Vlasotince, Leskovac, Lebane, Doljevac, Dimitrovgrad and Bela Palanka. The floods destroyed several bridges connecting regional and local roads, but alternative means of communication and commutation still exist and the distribution of goods is still possible. There were no casualties but there is a lot of property damage. This part of Serbia is one of the poorest areas with a predominantly older population.

The following table shows some essential data in relation to the damage and population according to the joint field assessment:

	Municipality	Part of town/ village	Population	Number of flooded households	Number of affected people
	PIROT	Naselje Tanasko Rajić		500	1,500
		Naselje Nova Mala			
		Naselje prisjanski put			
		Selo Barje Čiflik		50	150
		Selo Blato		20	60
		Selo Kostor		20	60
Municipality of PIROT Total				590	1,770
	BABUŠNICA	Babušnica	4,500	1,500	4,000
		Izvor	11,200		
		Donji Striževac			
		Draginac			
		Gorčince			
		Ljuberadja			
		15,700			
	VLASOTINCE	Vlasotince	36,000	1,000	3,000
		Selo Svodje			
		Selo Boljare			
		Selo Kruševica			
		Selo Manastirište			
		Selo Šišava			
		Selo Stajkovce			
		Selo Gložane			
Municipality of VLASOTINCE Total				1,000	3,000
	LESKOVAC	Leskovac	76,000	50	150
	LEBANE	Selo Pertat	20,000	100	300
		Selo Bošnjac		80	240
		Selo Konjin		50	150

Municipality of LEBANE Total			230	690	
	DOLJEVAC	Selo Pukovac	21,000	80	240
		Selo Šainovac		30	120
		Selo Belotinac		40	120
Municipality of DOLJEVAC Total			150	480	
	DIMITROVGRAD	Assessment ongoing			
	BELA PALANKA	Assessment ongoing			
Grand total			3,520	10,090	

The population was evacuated only in Vlasotince municipality, where the need was identified. A total of 172 Roma people were evacuated from their settlement and 122 of them now temporarily reside in private accommodation while 50 are in a collective centre. In other municipalities there was no need for evacuation as the water level allows for accommodation in flooded areas, albeit with certain risks.



Lebane under heavy rain

The municipalities of Vlasotince and Babušnica had their authorities declare a state of emergency.

The water is receding, but in the Vlasina region there is a problem with underground waters slowing down the recession and keeping the basements of houses flooded.

In response to the situation the government of Serbia has made a provision of 48,000,000 dinars (approximately EUR 550,000) to be used to assist the affected areas with infrastructure repairs and other needs.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Red Cross teams in all of the affected municipalities are actively participating in ongoing assessment of the damage and the needs of the affected population, especially the most vulnerable people. So far, the Red Cross of Serbia has provided the following relief assistance to those most affected:

Item	DOLJEVAC	BABUŠNICA	PIROT	VLASOTINCE	Total
Water tank, 1200 litres	-	5	-	-	5
Family hygiene parcel	60	200	200	200	660
Baby hygiene parcel	10	15	30	20	75
Baby bath tub	-	-	-	10	10
Rubber boots	30	100	100	200	430
Fisherman's rubber boots	-	5	5	20	30
Blanket	-	-	-	100	100
Bed linen set	-	-	-	50	50
Mattress	-	-	-	50	50
Rain coat	12	100	24	18	154
Dehumidifier	-	5	5	5	15
Meat can 150g	-	-	-	300	300

Meat pate can 150g	-	-	-	300	300
Fish can 125g	-	-	-	300	300
Red Cross of Serbia Uniform	12	12	24	18	66

The relief assistance is being distributed to the most vulnerable (including those on social welfare assistance, older people, ill and handicapped people and large families). Water tanks are being used to provide drinking water to the population until the existing water infrastructure is declared safe to use.

It is expected that more assistance will be needed and the preliminary assessments of the needs suggest the following items might be necessary in the following days:

- Canned food;
- Family hygiene parcels;
- Disinfectants for households;
- Disinfectants for water wells;
- Electric mud/ water pumps;
- Rubber boots;
- Water tanks (1,000-1,200 litres)

The exact needs will be quantified in more detail, and if necessary a request will be made to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) within the next 48 hours.

Communication and Coordination

All the affected municipalities have mobilised their existing crisis headquarters which in all cases involve secretaries of the municipal Red Cross branches. The Red Cross of Serbia coordinates the work of its municipal branches and at the same time coordinates its activities with the Civil Protection headquarters. It also maintains a close contact with the Federation's country and regional representation.

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