

Information Bulletin n° 1 10 August 2016

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, however, is constantly assessing the situation and has determined that international assistance is required at the moment, and it is therefore seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this point in time.

In the afternoon of 6 August 2016, torrential rains caused flash floods in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, severely affecting the populated areas and agricultural regions in Skopje and Tetovo.

The flooding unfortunately resulted in 22 casualties and over 60 injured persons as well as large material damage.

In the course of the night, the Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia teams provided emergency assistance and support to the affected people and assisted in the evacuation of the citizens organized by the emergency response forces of the police and the army. The operation took place in several communities in the municipality of Gazi Baba, Skopje and villages around the

city of Tetovo. From its own stocks, the Red Cross provided humanitarian assistance to the affected population through the distribution of blankets, mattresses and drinking water for 1,000 people. Majority of the evacuated persons are currently sheltered in host families and collective centres.

The most affected villages and communities by the flash floods are Chento, Indzikovo, Singelich, Stajkovci, Smilkovci, Creshevo, Viniche, Strachinci in the Skopje region and the villages of Shipkovica, Brodec, Veshala and Poroj in the Tetovo region (please see the map of the flooded regions [here](#)).

After the initial assessment done in the morning of 7 August 2016, the National Society provided additional assistance from its stocks, namely, potable water (35 tons), food and hygiene items, mattresses, blankets and clothes for an additional 1,000 persons.

The situation

The severe flash floods affected primarily two regions (around the cities of Skopje and Tetovo). In a period of 12 hours, the region was hit by over 90 centimetres/m² of rainfall accompanied by strong winds, which resulted in tremendous flash floods. Subsequently, this led to loss of human lives and great material damage such as destroyed ring-roads, streets, demolished vehicles and infrastructure. The most affected areas are located in the northern part of Skopje, where more than 70 per cent of the houses have been flooded, with completely destroyed pieces of furniture and accompanying infrastructure. Three days after the disaster, the whole affected area is still without electricity.



Needs assessment by RC volunteers in the flooded region:
Photo: Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The initial assessment shows the following damage caused by the floods in the communities:

Name of community	No. of inhabitants	No. of houses	Percentage of flooded houses
Chento	13,153	4,110	over 60%
Indzikovo	3,344	889	over 60%
Singjelic	10,165	2,166	100%
Stajkovci	3,552	960	100%
Smilkovci	345	114	100%
Creshevo	1,278	385	100%
Viniche	500	100	100%
Strachinci	1,185	266	100%

In Tetovo region the heavy rainfall has resulted in flooding of the roads between the villages Shipkovica, Brodec, Veshala and Poroj, which has led to isolation of the villages. At the moment, there are road works for removal of mud and rocks.

The initial assessment indicates that around 7,000 houses have been seriously affected by the floods.

Activities of the local authorities and non-Movement partners

From the very first moments of the disaster, the state authorities are fully involved in the alleviation of the consequences and in undertaking preventive measures to stop further damages. Priority is given to search and rescue activities for eventual casualties.

As a result of the floods, the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia declared a state of emergency situation for Skopje and Tetovo regions for a period of 15 days. Currently, the water channels are being cleaned, houses are being drained and there are activities in place for fixing the infrastructure in the surrounding roads as soon as possible.

The activities of the state authorities are supported by 17 persons from Republic of Bulgaria and a team of 10 persons from Republic of Serbia.

Representative of DG ECHO based in Belgrade conducted joint field visit to the affected areas together with the National Society.

The European Union (EU) has also activated its Civil Protection Mechanism and further assessment mission is planned by them to the affected areas for the coming week.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

The Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is in constant communication and coordination with the state authorities. The Secretary general of the Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is part of the crisis management HQ and is attending meetings of the Government, where decisions are passed for undertaking concrete measures for assisting the affected population.

During the past 48 hours, the teams of the National Society have been constantly engaged in relief operations for support, assistance and evacuation of the citizens. Since 8 August 2016, the Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is appointed by the Government to be the only organization in the country to coordinate and distribute the humanitarian assistance provided to the floods-affected population.

The entire operation of the National Society is supported by 60 staff and volunteers and staff, divided in 7 mobile teams for first aid and distribution of assistance. The logistics capacities of the National Society are at disposal and being used in the operation.

So far the National Society has distributed from its own stocks 5,500 food parcels, 55 tons of drinking water, 190 mattresses, 356 blankets, 150 hygiene parcels and 210 kilograms of clothes. A total of 35 people have been supported with first aid by the mobile teams of the Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

On 7 August 2016, the Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia launched a domestic appeal for raising funds to the affected population, such as: canned meat, baby food, diapers, potable water and disinfectants. Citizens are invited to donate the assistance in the National Society's warehouse in Momin Potok, Skopje. Individuals and companies are also invited to donate money on the solidarity account of the National Society, which will be also used for procurement of material assistance for the affected population and for reconstruction of the houses. People can also donate (EUR 1,5 per call) by calling the Red Cross telephone numbers +389 75/70/77 143 400.

The National Societies of Austria, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia contacted the Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and offered material assistance in support to the affected population.

The operation is implemented in close coordination with the Regional Office for Europe (ROE) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is considering the launch of a DREF operation in the coming days so as to address the needs of the population affected by the floods.

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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 Humanitarian 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.



Map of the flooded regions

