

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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

ALBANIA: FLOODING

Preliminary Appeal

no: 27/02

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*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 178 countries.
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IN BRIEF

**THIS PRELIMINARY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 571,000
(USD 386,161 or EUR 391,712) IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES TO
ASSIST 20,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 3 MONTHS**

The Situation

Heavy rainfall which started on 22 September 2002 has caused substantial flooding in several areas of Albania. Three factors added to the seriousness of the situation:

- Reduced capacity of sucking pumps at draining stations in lowland areas.
- Broken dikes in almost all the affected areas.
- Uncontrolled migration and settling of people during the past decade in lowland areas of the prefecture of Lezha without proper studies from the authorities.
- Electricity cuts, influencing the non-functioning of water pumps.



The worst affected areas were in the Lezha prefecture, 65 kms north of Tirana and in the lowland areas of Berat prefecture, 150 kms south of Tirana; Shkoder prefecture, 120 kms north of Tirana; Fier prefecture, 110 kms south of Tirana; Gjirokaster prefecture, 200 kms south of Tirana and Durres prefecture, 30 kms north west of Tirana.

In some mountainous areas, heavy rain caused bridges to collapse, blocking roads, and land slides which created serious problems in supplying the internal and remote villages with food and other commodities. A number of electricity stations in the flooded areas have been damaged and are non-functional. In a number of areas there have been power cuts.

Water and sanitation is another very sensitive aspect and is proving problematic. In some municipalities, such as Lac and Milot, there is no water. In total 26,000 hectares of arable land are flooded and the overall loss for the affected families and the country's infrastructure is estimated to be around USD 17 million (Government figures) which represents a very serious loss for Albania.

For these reasons, a state of emergency was declared by the government on 23 September 2002 in the following four prefectures: Lezha, Shkodra, Kukes and Peshkopi. Both Berati and Gjirokastra were added shortly afterwards. The government immediately sent army troops to the most affected areas to help evacuate families. In addition, special care was taken in opening blocked roads and new dikes were built with sandbags. This work is continuing around the country.

In accordance with the Emergency Situation Law, an inter-ministerial committee was created under the leadership of the Prime Minister to co-ordinate the work of all institutions which are involved in this situation. At the same time, in all affected prefectures and communes, emergency committees were set up to manage the situation in their territories of authority. The Albanian Red Cross is represented on these committees at the local level.

The Albanian Red Cross reacted promptly to the floods with a group assembled at headquarters to closely monitor the evolving situation and to undertake the necessary actions to respond effectively. Headquarters staff meetings are held every day where information on the latest developments is exchanged and new tasks are defined for the following day. A reporting and information system with Red Cross branches involved in this response has been created. Guidelines for the branches and sub branches were drafted and sent out via wave mail. The day after the first major rainfall, the Red Cross branch of Lezha distributed 250 blankets from their stock to evacuated families being accommodated in a public building. On the same day, headquarters organized the delivery of 300 blankets and 1,000 kg of canned meat to Lezha and 150 blankets to Berat.

Due to the difficulties encountered because of the situation, it was not possible to receive information on time to meet the needs of the flood-affected families. Consequently, the Albanian Red Cross decided to supply six Red Cross branches in the affected areas with some basic commodities (blankets, wheat flour, sugar, canned meat, oil and soap) which are usually needed in such situations. In Lezha 100 family packages were delivered; in Berat 70 family packages; in Durres 50 family packages; in Gjirokaster 50 family packages; in Fier 50 family packages and in Shkoder, 50 family packages. All of these packages were distributed to the most affected families. The overall amount distributed was:

- 3.7 tons of wheat flour.
- 1,850 pieces of canned meat.
- 750 kg of sugar.
- 750 litres of oil.
- 1,500 pieces of soaps.
- 1,860 blankets to 2,600 beneficiaries.

The Albanian Red Cross took the responsibility to raise the visibility of this response and made it publicly known via TV and newspapers. As these commodities were readily available, the Albanian Red Cross has only sought funds to cover distribution expenditures such as transport, warehousing, loading and unloading, staffing, administrative costs, etc. This is around USD 25,000 and the USAID representative in Albania has made a soft pledge to meet this figure. The goal of the Albanian Red Cross during this emergency phase has been to provide immediate relief to some of the most affected families in flooded areas. Through the distribution of basic food items and non-food items by Red Cross branches to vulnerable families in the area, some of the immediate needs of families have been addressed.



Additional food items and non-food items will be distributed to 3,820 vulnerable families in the six prefectures over the next three months to cover the emergency and recovery phase.

The Needs

In order to organise a proper response, the Albanian Red Cross in co-operation with the American Red Cross and German Red Cross in Albania organised a needs assessment mission in the most affected areas in two different road directions. Firstly through Durres, Lezha and Shkodra and secondly via Fier, Berat and Vlore. The findings

from this mission indicate that there are still 3,820 families in these areas under water. More detailed information indicates:

- In the Lezhe prefecture: 2,810 families/properties are seriously damaged in 5 municipalities and 22 villages.
- In Berat prefecture: 490 families/properties are seriously damaged in 3 municipalities and 4 villages.
- In Durres prefecture: 350 families/properties are seriously damaged in 1 municipality and 3 villages.
- In Fier, Gjirokastra & Shkoder prefectures: 170 families/properties are seriously damaged.

The type of damage includes collapsed houses, partially damaged houses, ruined furniture, drowned livestock, destroyed food reserves, and destroyed livestock food.

According to the families interviewed (64 interviews), the average value of damage for one family is around USD 3,000 - 4,000. In view of this situation the Albanian Red Cross, in agreement with the American and German Red Cross, have decided to respond in two phases to the needs of 3,820 of the most affected families by providing them with a package containing: 2 blankets, 20 kg wheat flour, 5 cans of tinned meat, 2 litres oil, 2 kg sugar, 2 kg washing powder and 8 pieces of soap.

The first phase will cover the basic needs for one month. All the required items are currently available at the Albanian Red Cross warehouse as DPP stock which was purchased at the end of last year. At the end of this response operation these stocks will be replenished.

The second phase is planned to commence immediately afterwards, based on available funding from donors during November - December 2002. This second phase relief operation consists of organizing the distribution of packages on a monthly basis to vulnerable families and will be considered as a recovery operation. The affected families have lost their property and personal possessions and the winter lies ahead. The distribution operation will be conducted in co-ordination with the Central Inter Ministerial Committee of the government and the committees of each prefecture. Every family will receive identical packages, as identified above.

Immediate Needs

Based on the joint assessment mission organised by the Albanian Red Cross and the American and German Red Cross, three of the most seriously affected communes (Balltren, Zejmen & Ura Vajgurore) were targeted for the needs assessment. All of these communes were selected for the assessment in agreement with the local authorities based on recognised poor living conditions in these communes prior to the flooding. All of these areas are inhabited by people who moved to this region from northern Albania during the last ten years. Beneficiaries have been selected based on the following criteria: collapsed and partially damaged houses, ruined furniture, drowned livestock, destroyed food reserves, and destroyed livestock food. Following the completion of this needs assessment, a total of 3,820 beneficiary families were selected for high priority assistance. This target group is composed of:

- 2,100 families living in shelter provided by relatives and neighbours.
- 1,320 families remaining in seriously damaged properties.
- 200 families evacuated to communal buildings.
- 200 families staying in tents

On average each family is composed of 5-6 members (parents with children under 16 years of age)

Co-ordination

The first phase of the operation has already started and subsequent recovery activities covering 3 months of relief have been communicated to the Inter Ministerial Committee with details of proposed activities. The work is also being co-ordinated at the local level through co-operation with local committees at the prefecture level in Lezha, Berat, Durres, Fier, and Shkoder. Co-ordination and exchange of information between the Albanian Red Cross and the central and local committees will continue to ensure there is no overlapping of work with other organisations.

A very fruitful co-operation with USAID's delegation in Albania enabled the Albanian Red Cross to receive USD 25,000, which will be used to cover the expenses of the first phase to cover the costs of distributing the emergency stock, currently being held in the warehouse. There are some soft pledges from the American Red

Cross for a quantity of washing powder and 30,000 pieces of daily food rations from the German Red Cross. Close co-operation will be organised with the delegations of the American and German Red Cross present in the country to ensure every possible assistance may be provided through their headquarters.

The Proposed Operation

Relief: distribution of basic food and non-food items

Objective 1: Prepare distributions of and distribute food and non-food items to 3,820 vulnerable families in five prefectures during the first month of the emergency.

The following activities will be undertaken to fulfil this objective:

- prepare guidelines for the relief operation in Red Cross branches and sub-branches.
- prepare list of beneficiaries with local authorities.
- deliver food and non-food items to five Red Cross branch warehouses.
- organise distribution to beneficiaries.
- prepare system of data reporting and monitor distribution.

Objective 2: Distribute basic food and non-food supplies to 3,820 families in Lezhe and Berat Prefectures during the recovery phase over 2 months.

The following activities will be undertaken to fulfil this objective:

- revise beneficiary lists with local authorities.
- procure food and non-food items in Albania.
- deliver food and non-food items to five Red Cross branch warehouses.
- organise distribution to beneficiaries.
- prepare system of data reporting and monitor distribution.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and priorities

The mission of the Red Cross in Albania, in conformity with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, strives to improve the life and dignity of people in need, by working together to increase humanitarian action. This is in compliance with the mission of the Federation's strategy 2010 with the aim of improving the lives of the vulnerable through the mobilization of the power of humanity.

The two major goals of the Albanian Red Cross are to further develop the Albanian Red Cross Disaster Preparedness programme and to increase the effectiveness of Albanian Red Cross Intervention in local disasters. To fulfil these goals the national society has planned to implement over the next two years a number of projects including proactive responses such as the current response to emergency phase 1.

A national strategy has been developed over the past two years and is currently being followed by national and regional branch offices.

Media/Public Information Plan

As part of the national strategy, the Albanian Red Cross is increasing the image of the Red Cross/Red Crescent in general, and the Albanian Red Cross in particular, among the general public. This strategy also provides for emergency situations to ensure ongoing communication is maintained among the government, the Federation, the ICRC, PNS's, direct beneficiaries and the media.

Capacity of the National Society

In 2001, the Albanian Red Cross headquarters was restructured and there are now three departments with a total of 32 permanent staff. At the regional level, 12 secretaries and 6 administrators are employed in 12 branch offices with local councils being responsible for activities at sub-branch level.

Thirty-nine sub branches are administered by volunteers and are equipped with offices, communications equipment and vehicles. The Albanian Red Cross has 57,000 subscribed members and 3,000 volunteers throughout the country.

There are governance organs at all levels of the National Society, responsible for directing national policy and developing guidelines. The management of the National Society is at national and branch level and is structured based on the characteristics of a well functioning National Society.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring of emergency and recovery activities will be undertaken by heads of departments and co-ordinators from the secretariat, in conjunction with branch secretaries. Weekly field visits will be undertaken to verify the receipt of packages by families listed as beneficiaries. Should additional needs be identified during visits, these will be recorded and reported to central and local committees responsible for addressing emergency relief. Both written reports and daily bulletins will be produced by Albanian Red Cross staff with information collated during these field visits.

Throughout the emergency and recovery phases and in particular during the distribution of packages to beneficiaries, ongoing evaluation of activities will be undertaken and reported at daily Albanian Red Cross meetings. The central and local committees will be informed of the status of activities.

Capacity of the Federation

The Regional Delegation in Budapest has a total of 7 regional delegates based in Budapest and two delegates outposted: a Head of Regional Delegation, Regional Disaster Preparedness Delegate, Head of Regional Planning and Reporting Unit, Head of Regional Communications Unit, Head of Regional Finance Unit, Head of Regional Logistics Unit in Budapest, and Regional Health and Care Delegate. Regionally, there are a number of delegates and national staff who have received Field Assessment and Co-ordination Team (FACT), Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) or Emergency Response Unit (ERU) training. These persons can be released for the operation as needed. The Budapest Regional Delegation was in daily contact with the National Society and is fully equipped with all necessary facilities which can be shared with all components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Currently, there is no need for more delegates. The Regional Delegation with its team of delegates and local staff supports the Albanian Red Cross Society in Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Management, health and care, organisational development, youth, logistics, and communication.

The Regional Delegation Disaster Preparedness Programme is supporting the National Societies with management, procedures and RDRT training sessions. The delegation is planning special training for the National Societies in necessary follow-up procedures to disasters, such as procurement and reporting.

Budget summary

See attached budget in Annex 1 for details.

For further details please contact: Penny Elghady, Federation Desk Officer, Phone: 41 22 730 4319; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: elghady@ifrc.org.

All International Federation Assistance 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.

In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first operations update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and the second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support and these programmes are outlined on the Federation website.

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>

Jean Ayoub
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Didier J. Cherpitel
Secretary General

		ANNEX 1
<u>PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARY</u>		APPEAL No. 27/2002
Albania - Floods		
TYPE		VALUE
RELIEF NEEDS		IN CHF
Blankets, sleeping bags, ground sheets, rubber boots, clothes		90'000
Food (basic food packages)		215'000
Medical & first aid		86'000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		391'000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management		38'000
Technical support		12'000
Professional services		13'000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>		54'000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Personnel (support costs)		34'000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses		11'000
Information expenses		11'000
Administrative & general expenses		7'000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		180'000
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		571'000