



BULGARIA: FLOODS

*Final Report for
DREF Bulletin
no. 05ME047
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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 over 183 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this Final Report: August 2005 to March 2006.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 142,309.85 (USD 110,470 or EUR 91,931) allocated from the Federation's DREF on 8 August 2005, to respond to the needs of 2,400 families/10,000 beneficiaries for 1 month.
- A further CHF 77,500 (EUR 50,000) was allocated from the Federation's DREF in November 2005. Therefore, the total DREF allocation for this appeal was CHF 219,810 to assist a total of 4,507 families over the winter months.
- This operation was expected to be implemented by February 2006, but was completed by March 2006. In line with Federation reporting standards, the DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) was due 90 days after the end of the operation (by May 2006).

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

Background and Summary

As a result of heavy rains and storms, which hit Bulgaria from the end of May 2005 and continued throughout the country until November, a total of 25 municipalities in Bulgaria were affected. The flooding caused severe damage to public and private buildings, destroyed and damaged bridges, disrupted water supply systems, activated landslides, and damaged dikes and dams. On 4 August, a state of disaster was declared in the municipalities of Ihtiman, Gorna Malina (villages of Gorna Malina, Belopoltsi, Negushevo, Chekanchevo, Makotsevo, Dolno Kamartsi, Gorno Kamartsi, Sarantsi, Sturgel, and Dolna Malina) and Kostenets. The Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC) was closely involved with a range of emergency services to respond to this disaster. In a number of places, the public infrastructure was destroyed or seriously damaged. Several people were reported dead, arable land was flooded and crops destroyed, basements and gardens were under water and cattle drowned. Overall, the most seriously affected regions were Targovishte, Veliko Tirnov, Shoumen, Stara Zagora and Rousse and several municipalities in the regions of Haskovo, Bourgas, Vratza and Lovetch, Sofia region. A state of emergency was declared in five municipalities in Shumen region, and three in the region of Targovishte, Stara Zagora.



The heavy rains and storms which hit Bulgaria in the end of May 2005 caused damage to buildings and infrastructure of 25 municipalities in the country

The assessment phase continued as the flooding spread and the heavy rains continued. While state institutions and local authorities mounted relief efforts, the situation worsened once again with successive waves of heavy rains, affecting the same areas as well as new ones, also including southern Bulgaria. During this second wave the regions of Targovishte, Veliko Tarnovo, Rousse, Shoumen, Silistra in Northern Bulgaria and Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Plovdiv, Pazardjik and Burgas in Southern Bulgaria were affected. A state of emergency was declared in the municipalities of Rousse (Dve Mogili), Targovishte (Popovo) and Shoumen regions. The water level of the Vit, Osam, Baniska and Jantra rivers rapidly increased to 3 to 5 meters above normal, damaging roads, railways, electro and water supply systems, telecommunications, as well as individual property (flooded basements, houses and farms). The railway lines connecting Sofia with the northern part of the country – Targovishte, Shoumen and Varna – were flooded cutting cross country rail communication.

Coordination

Local authority, state, other agencies

The State Agency Civil Protection, Fire Brigade, Police and other disaster partners coordinated actions in response to the crisis, and from the beginning of the alert, the Bulgarian Red Cross was in daily contact with the Crisis Management Centre of the Agency. The regional branches of the Bulgarian Red Cross were also critical in monitoring developments in the communities where they work.

Urgent action was taken by governmental institutions and NGOs to decrease the impact of the flooding. Rescue teams carried out drainage work, cleared mud and fallen trees from buildings, roads and streets. Temporary dikes were built on endangered sections. People were relocated from the most affected buildings to temporary shelters: mostly accommodated in schools, kindergartens, or with relatives and host families. Immediately after declaring a state of emergency, the standing commission for civil protection in times of disasters, accidents and catastrophes, the council of ministers, regional and municipal commissions in the affected regions launched their initial response mechanisms. Rescue efforts were immediately organized with crews from Civil Protection, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Defense, Municipal organizations and other partners, according to the municipal and regional plans for action in disasters, accidents and

catastrophes. The organization and coordination of human and material resources was done by the commissions at all levels.

The BRC played an important role as a valuable partner of the government in this difficult situation and coordinated its efforts with national and local authorities, NGOs – including the national society of municipalities in Bulgaria, and other organizations such as UNDP, Caritas, Care, etc. The Standing Governmental Commission asked the Bulgarian Red Cross for assistance and the Civil Protection agency provided updated figures to the Bulgarian Red Cross.

Information from the affected regions was collected, processed and analyzed on an ongoing basis – at four hourly intervals during the initial emergency phase. The coordination and cooperation between the agencies and the organizations continued into the next phase of the disaster – during the post emergency and rehabilitation phases over the winter.

There were projects for rehabilitating houses and reestablishing part of the agricultural needs which was a problem in the rural areas. Thanks to good collaboration between the government and non-government organizations and structures most of the needs were met.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Bulgarian Red Cross is a part of the National Emergency Response Plan. The Regional Bulgarian Red Cross branches maintained daily contact with relevant authorities and the civil protection agency, to monitor the situation and to implement their response initiatives. The regional BRC branch representatives are members of the Local Standing Commissions for protection of the population and in this capacity they took part in all coordination meetings related to the floods. Immediate response was organized in all affected regions from the BRC branches, providing emergency relief according to the needs of the affected population: blankets, bedding, mattresses, pillows and food.

At the beginning of the emergency, the BRC delivered immediately emergency aid to the affected people from its own disaster reserves; approached the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies with a request for allocation of funds from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF); utilized several cash and in-kind donations from partner National Societies; and launched a national media campaign to fundraise for cash and in kind donations. Regular briefings and press conferences were held to inform the public of BRC actions, and outstanding needs. Information about the operation was published on BRC webpage. The BRC mobilized its staff and volunteers and delivered to the affected population more than 100 trucks of emergency items to cover the most urgent needs: food, water, clothing, blankets, bedding sets, mattresses, pillows disinfectants, insecticides, etc.

USAID provided financial assistance (USD 50,000) via the American RC, for procurement and delivering of food, hygiene materials, blankets, bedding sets, mattresses etc., to assist 3,000 beneficiaries in seven affected regions for a one month period. RC/RC National Societies have also supported the BRC operation with donations for people in need: 18,000 Euros for the purchase of generators and water pumps from the Spanish RC, the Croatian RC donated in-kind materials (blankets, beds, linen, etc.), Luxembourg Red Cross (2,400 blankets and 2,400 hygiene parcels), Turkish Red Crescent (in-kind donation and USD 5,000), Austrian Red Cross (EUR 2,500), Czech Red Cross (EUR 33,889). Concerning the four warehouses and the part replenishment of stocks a project with Austrian Red Cross and Neighbors in Need funds were given in a total of EUR 84,000.

During the process of helping and providing relief to those people affected, the issue of rehabilitation of whole villages and homes arose. In accordance with the risk analysis, capacity analysis and needs assessment, the BRC took part in a Project with E.ON Energy Germany to provide EUR 400,000 for rehabilitation and/or building of private houses damaged during the floods. At the same time BRC also started to work with the Austrian Red Cross and the Austrian Development Agency for the funding of EUR 100,000 for rehabilitation of private houses and health centers in twelve regions in Bulgaria and to provide heaters, seeds and animals to the affected people. Both projects are on-going.

Assessment

The needs of the affected population after the first phase of the disaster past were connected with rehabilitation in general. In order to improve the living conditions, the assessment revealed a need for basic household materials as well as insecticides and disinfectants.

The Bulgarian Red Cross's regional teams were regularly assessing in the field in their own regions and collected precise data about the needs of the affected population and scale of the floods. Bulgarian Red Cross – Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response Department summarized the data of all affected regions, and coordinated the whole operation with the branches and all partners.

The BRC has a developed system for the processing of assessment information and the identification of beneficiaries. A commission, consisting of national society representatives, and respected public figures including journalists, is involved in scrutinizing the needs assessment data collected from both local municipality and local BRC branches. Decisions are then taken by the commission in targeting of beneficiaries.

During an evaluation meeting organized in March 2006, the directors of the local branches from each of the affected regions presented their work during the floods over the past year. After presentations the participants analysed the current scheme for reaction in disaster situations and the documentation for reporting and requesting during disasters. As a result of this analysis, the documentation has been revised. Directors of the Local branches expressed their gratitude to the volunteers of the organisation. On the base of the analysis, the main recommendations to optimise the action of the BRC were:

- Need for clear and exact information.
- First psychological support for staff and volunteers
- First psychological support for the affected population
- Developing the capacity of the warehouses
- Setting up and equipment of local warehouses and construction of interregional warehouse for South Bulgaria, to ensure minimal disaster reserve and warehouse techniques

Analysis of the operation – achievements and impact

Goal: To provide assistance to the most affected people and families in ten regions

Objective 1: To provide beds and mattresses to 347 families

Objective 2: To distribute disinfectants and cleaning agents to 1,760 beneficiaries

The following activities have been undertaken to fulfill these objectives:

BRC Headquarters compiled and sent out relief operation guidelines to be used by Bulgarian Red Cross branches

A letter with guidance on relief operation activities, quotation and beneficiary selection criteria was sent to BRC branches affected by the floods.

BRC branches compiled beneficiary lists

BRC uses a standard form for disaster relief distribution and all the branches received guidelines on how to fill in the forms when delivering relief items.

Procurement of relief items in Bulgaria

All items planned to be purchased to meet the needs of affected population and according to the budget lines of the proposal (Beds with mattresses – 347 and disinfectant and insecticides of different types – 618,5 litres) were ordered based on a comparative bid analysis (CBA). An additional 52 beds with mattresses were ordered according to the CBA (due to the advantageous price offer, within the budget and after consultation with the Regional Delegation in Budapest).



Insecticides stored in the warehouse – Lozen – prior to distribution

Beds and disinfectants were delivered to the Bulgarian Red Cross local branches

The relief items were delivered to the Regional Branches by 12 January, 2006. The local distribution of the items was completed by early February. The delay was due to the extreme weather in Bulgaria during the winter months. The lists of beneficiaries were sent to the Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response Department by 10 February 2006. The loading and unloading of the trucks was done again by volunteers and staff at the Headquarters and locally. Transportation of the relief items was made by BRC trucks.

The distribution of the insecticides

All the insecticides were distributed to Rousse region. The regional branch of Rousse requested from the NHQ insecticides for the area in the Valley of the Danube River. After preparing contracts for the authorized use of this kind of chemical, all the insecticides were sent to Rousse.

Beneficiary selection

BRC Branches organized distribution to the beneficiaries in their regions in cooperation with the local authorities - mayors, social services and local representatives of the Agency for Civil Protection. The most vulnerable were selected based on criteria in the plan of action i.e. Elderly over 60 and living alone, single women with young children, disabled and handicapped, low income families below social minimum. All beneficiaries were registered during distribution and copies of the lists were sent to Bulgarian Red Cross Headquarters.

Relief Goods Distribution

Regions	Numbers
Veliko Tarnovo	52 beds 100 l. disinfectants
Pleven	25 l. disinfectants
Shoumen	20 beds 25 l. disinfectants
Varna	20 beds 25 l. disinfectants
Lovech	52 beds 50 l. disinfectants
Targovishte	15 beds 25 l. disinfectants
Sofia – region	110 beds 100 l. disinfectants
Vratsa	20 beds 25 l. disinfectants
Rousse	85 beds 100 l. disinfectants
Stara Zagora	25 beds 25 l. disinfectants
Total	399 beds 500 litres disinfectant

Changes to the plan

Due to advantageous prices in the procurement process, and savings within the distribution process, the Bulgarian RC was able to support, through this funding, an evaluation workshop for branch directors from the regions hit by the floods. This was an excellent opportunity to draw on the lessons learnt from the disaster, and to strengthen the systems and procedures in place at the BRC to assess, respond and report on disasters, as well as to build human resource capacity in terms of skills, experience exchange and knowledge.

Monitoring

The project was monitored through visits to the field. The framework and the monitoring tools are standardized and are as follows:

Monitoring framework

1. Review the development of the situation caused by the floods in Bulgaria;
2. Review Bulgarian Red Cross response to the needs of the affected by the floods;
3. Identify other potential needs of affected people, which have not been covered by actions taken;
4. Identify if the actions taken adequately respond to the disaster;
5. Review the effectiveness of the actions taken in response to the disaster;
6. Review the cooperation of the BRC with the local authorities, institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations in response to the disaster;
7. Collect recommendations from stakeholders (affected people, BRC, governmental institutions, etc.) in order to improve the actions that will possibly be taken in the future;
8. Review the participation of Bulgarian Red Cross volunteers on grass-root level in responding to the floods, their roles and their needs;
9. Review the extent to which the assistance provided by the donor had an effect on overcoming the disaster situation and reducing the suffering of the affected people.

Monitoring tools

- Direct observation during field visits
- Interviews with key persons
- Semi-structured interviews
- Review of documentation

Conclusions

The DREF funds received through the Federation enabled the Bulgarian Red Cross to adequately respond to the needs of the affected population. The Red Cross achieved the objective to provide relief to people in need. The follow up project needed to be put into effect is working on the rehabilitation phase.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Principles and initiatives

During the period from the beginning of the floods to date, the Bulgarian Red Cross continues working with partners in relief distribution and to support the people affected by the floods. BRC organized regular meetings of the Crisis Management Team and all decisions for response have been made according to the needs. Press conferences and briefings about the RC operation have been organized with central and local media. The BRC operation received good television coverage.

National Society Capacity Building

The implementation of the project provided an opportunity to BRC to strengthen its disaster response capacity once more. BRC regional branches in the affected regions improved in practice their skills to work together with governmental and local authorities. Better coordination and cooperation was established also with ministries, agencies and other NGOs working on the flood operations and assisting the affected population.

The floods in Bulgaria caused tremendous damages in 2005. Again in the spring 2006, the Danube river was overflooded. The Bulgarian Red Cross was able to respond to the 2006 emergency with its own capacity, supported by bilateral assistance. The BRC did not request funding from DREF or assistance from the Federation.

Lessons learned

During implementation of the project, the BRC once more faced the need to raise the capacity of the local branches and headquarters. This was the second DREF allocation during 2005 for Bulgarian RC, and put into practice the lessons learnt from the first application – including the assessment phase and developing of the proposal. The BRC must now focus on a programme for capacity building in disaster management in order to enable the BRC to further strengthen in this field. This will be done on the basis of the recommendations elaborated during the flood evaluation meeting of the local branch directors.

Financial Information

In total, CHF 219,810 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for the assistance. However, as the amount of CHF 217,962 was enough to implement the planned activities, the remaining CHF 1,848 was returned back to DREF.

[Final financial report below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

M05ME047 - BULGARIA: FLOODS - 2

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/07-2006/06
Budget Timeframe	2005/07-2006/03
Appeal	M05ME047
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		219'808				219'808
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
DREF		219'810				219'810
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		219'810				219'810
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		219'810				219'810
D. Total Funding = B + C		219'810				219'810

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		219'810				219'810
E. Expenditure		-217'962				-217'962
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		1'848				1'848

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

M05ME047 - BULGARIA: FLOODS - 2

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/07-2006/06
Budget Timeframe	2005/07-2006/03
Appeal	M05ME047
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		219'808					219'808	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	126'846		107'181				107'181	19'665
Food	30'421		50'284				50'284	-19'862
Other Supplies & Services	13'003		13'071				13'071	-67
Total Supplies	170'270		170'535				170'535	-265
Transport & Storage								
Storage	23'427		3'344				3'344	20'083
Distribution & Monitoring			8'080				8'080	-8'080
Transport & Vehicle Costs			827				827	-827
Total Transport & Storage	23'427		12'252				12'252	11'176
Personnel Expenditures								
National Society Staff			2'920				2'920	-2'920
Total Personnel Expenditures			2'920				2'920	-2'920
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training			2'869				2'869	-2'869
Total Workshops & Training			2'869				2'869	-2'869
General Expenditure								
Travel			43				43	-43
Information & Public Relation			12				12	-12
Office Costs	11'823		6'201				6'201	5'622
Communications			8'236				8'236	-8'236
Financial Charges			727				727	-727
Total General Expenditure	11'823		15'219				15'219	-3'396
Program Support								
Program Support	14'288		14'168				14'168	120
Total Program Support	14'288		14'168				14'168	120
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions	0							0
Total Operational Provisions	0							0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	219'808		217'962				217'962	1'846
VARIANCE (C - D)			1'846				1'846	