

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

ROMANIA: FLOODS

Appeal No. MDRRO001
20 October 2006

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 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 4; Period covered: 1 August to 30 September 2006; Appeal target: CHF 2,067,057 (USD 1,692,095 or EUR 1,314,375); Appeal coverage: 30.6 per cent;

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

Appeal history:

- **Launched on 29 April 2006 for CHF 2,247,200 (USD 1.9 million or EUR 1.5 million) for 3 months to assist 13,000 beneficiaries.**
- **Operations Update no. 1 decreased the budget to CHF 2,067,057 on 10 May.**
- **Operational Update no. 3 extended the operation to 31 October 2006, reporting deadline 31 Jan 2007.**
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 168,930.**

Operational Summary: This operations update requests an extension of the operational timeframe for three months, until January 2007 (reporting deadline March 2007), due to the still existing needs in the field and the arrival of some donations at a later stage of the operation. The additional time will be used according to the action plan prepared by the Romanian RC for continuation of the humanitarian assistance to 1,600 victims of the floods in Dolj and Tulcea counties during January.

At the end of July, both the international water and sanitation delegate and the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) leader ended their missions in Romania. From 1 August, Romanian RC local staff is managing the operation, with continuing support through the regional delegation in Budapest.

In addition to the DREF allocation, contributions to the appeal have been received from the American, British, Japanese, Liechtenstein, Monaco and Netherlands Red Cross Societies. In addition relief goods have been received by the Romanian Red Cross (Romanian RC) on a bilateral basis, and further deliveries are under discussion.

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.**

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In Romania: Romanian Red cross, Mihaela Steriu, Director General, dg@crucearosie.ro, phone: +40 21 317 4032, fax: +40 21 312 84 52*
- *In Budapest Regional Delegation : Slobodanka Curic, Regional DM coordinator, slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org, phone: +387 65 665 747, fax: +387 59 260 383*
- *In Geneva: Erja Reinikainen, Federation Regional Officer, Europe Department, erja.reinikainen@ifrc.org, phone +41.22.730.49.19, fax: +41.22.733.03.95; or*
- *Marina Mazmanian, Federation Regional Assistant, Europe Department, marina.mazmanian@ifrc.org, +41.22.730.44.54, fax: +41.22.733.03.95*

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



According to the Ministry of Interior, some 303 houses were flooded across Romania.

The operation continues in Romania with special focus on relief efforts – distributing food parcels to those still suffering from the effects of the spring flooding, many of whom are not able to return to their homes. This update focuses on Dolj and Tulcea counties, as they are the counties with the largest number of affected persons. Within the reporting period 3,186 food parcels were distributed (2,598 in Dolj and 584 in Tulcea). Solutions to the long term shelter question are still under discussion in the municipalities, including the issue of where to rebuild communities at risk. In the meantime 9,778 people continue to live in tent camps and containers, reliant on external assistance for food, water and hygiene items. Red Cross latrines in Calarasi county are in place. The construction of showers in the camps in Dolj and Calarasi counties are finalized but still awaiting local authorities to link them to the water

network and provide heaters. Materials have been prepared for a hygiene promotion campaign, which is expected to get under way once a local Romanian RC coordinator has been recruited and the funding has been secured through local donations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: To provide humanitarian relief assistance to 13,000 evacuated people and severely affected persons, consisting of tents, blankets, tarpaulins, plastic sheeting, mattresses, jerry cans, rubber boots, sleeping bags, food and hygiene parcels.

Progress/Achievements

For the reporting period the focus was on food parcels distribution prioritising Dolj, Calarasi and Tulcea counties, as they are the counties with the most number of affected persons. Some 3,186 food parcels were distributed (2,598 in Dolj and 584 in Tulcea). Due to problems experienced with the transport in the first round of food parcel procurement it was decided that procurement will take place at branch level. The process has been monitored closely by the headquarters to ensure standards are maintained. Branch level purchase did prove to be a better solution bringing advantages such as lower prices, lower transport costs and easier communication with suppliers.

Starting on 12 September, a further 7,200 hygiene parcels have been distributed in Calarasi, Dolj and Tulcea counties as part of a donation from German RC. A German RC delegate participated in the distribution between 12 September to 21 September.

Romanian RC HQ provided guidelines and information to Dolj and Tulcea branches related to procurement process, Federation standards and financial procedures. The Romanian RC HQ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the branches involved, requiring branches to send narrative and financial reports monthly and the HQ will send out working advances after checking the financial documents. Branches have also employed part-time operation coordinators. Regular visits from the Romanian RC HQ staff and volunteers have been carried out for monitoring of activities implemented.

Of the donations received by the Romanian RC through this appeal there are still stocks in the central warehouse of: rubber boots (264), tarpaulins (50), mattresses (894), dispensary tents (12), blankets (5,000), baby hygiene parcels (650), kitchen sets (500). The reason for this is that most arrived after the emergency when the needs had already been covered by the army and the Romanian RC from its own stocks. The Romanian RC is monitoring the situation and is ready to use some if these stocks if needed but is planning to keep the rest to fill its decreased emergency stocks.

Shelter

Objective 1: To provide housing in tents for those evacuated people for an initial period of three months.

Progress/Achievements

The general shelter situation in camps is satisfactory, with the government providing a combination of community and family tents as well as some containers for the affected population. For the time being the Romanian RC branches have verified that there are currently no additional tents needed.

In August and September the government provided 200 containers in Calarasi county (50 in Manastirea; 100 in Spantov; 50 in Chiselet). A further 477 containers were placed in Dolj county and 1,688 people are living in them. The Romanian RC decided to place three containers and one boat from the German RC donation in Crisan, a village in the middle of the Danube delta on Tulcea county at high risk. The three containers will serve as warehouses and will be equipped with the necessary relief items in case of emergency.

Impact:



Family tents are being used to shelter the affected population.

Red Cross teams have reported that the tents are being used in the camps. In Rast of Dolj county for example, one of the camps is using predominantly Red Cross tents. In the 2005 flood operation, the Romanian RC bought 140 containers with funds collected from local donors. These are currently providing shelter to 65 families in six counties who were affected last year.

These containers are complete with heating and electricity. Beneficiaries from last year's floods have greatly appreciated the heating, which is not available in the government-provided ones.

The Romanian RC monitored the situation of the containers purchased last year. Out of 140 containers, 65 are still used by the beneficiaries. Local authorities asked the RC to extend the free loan time by another 9 to 12 months.

Water and Sanitation

Objective 1: Population of the affected areas of Romanian counties Dolj, Calarasi, Constanta and Tulcea have access to safe water and sanitation and is reached by hygiene promotion, thereby preventing excess morbidity and mortality as a result of the disaster.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Romanian RC monitored the construction of the latrines in Calarasi county and showers in Rast, Dolj county. The showers (five for women and five for men) were finished at the end of August but are still not functional because local authorities have not connected them to the water network and have not provided heaters and hydro fore. The 20 latrines in Calarasi were also finished in August. The design of the latrines respects the local tradition and construction itself was carried out by craftsmen from the local community, with the Red Cross providing building materials. It is expected that the local people will move the latrines from the camp once they relocate to the land set aside for the reconstruction of the village.

The Romanian RC HQ has also purchased 300 boots for the people affected in Tulcea county.

Based on the results of the health assessment conducted by a combined Romanian RC and Federation team, the operation includes a hygiene promotion component in selected counties in cooperation with Romanian RC headquarters/branch staff and volunteers. The hygiene promotion project still needs funding. In July it was submitted to the attention of a national donor but still no decision was taken. The Romanian RC HQ asked for bids for the translation of the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) manual and other materials. The selection process has been finalized and a contract with the chosen company was signed. Even if the project is not funded this year, the Romanian RC will prepare the training kits and train the volunteers. This gives them the possibility of starting with the implementation as soon as a decision on the funding has been made. Campaign materials, including simple messages of basic safe hygiene, have been designed and are to be printed. The materials have been compiled with the support of the communications and PR officer of the Romanian RC, together with staff members of the Disaster Management Department. The campaign message will be disseminated quickly through public presentations, information materials and posters.

Impact

The new latrines successfully address questions of sustainability as they fulfilled a need expressed by the local municipality and community, work was done by a village foreman and the Red Cross only funded the materials. It is expected the community will take the structures with them when they relocate to their new land as they can be reassembled easily. The latrines have been regularly used by the local community, who are satisfied with the design and are maintaining them regularly.

Constraints

The showers are not yet operational as the local authorities have not been able to link them to the water network and buy heaters.

The hygiene promotion project has not yet started. The Romanian RC is still seeking to recruit a coordinator for the campaign, in order to take the campaign a step further: to organize PHAST training of trainers, and then to cascade the training down to community level and ensure that the safe hygiene messages are being disseminated in the target communities. This has not been achieved yet due to the lack of funding. The big concern is that the local donor who was envisioned to support financially the project has still not confirmed his support. Once funding has been secured and the coordinator is in place, the project will begin.

Federation Coordination

Over the reporting period, the Federation has continued to provide support to the Romanian RC. The RDRT members with relief and water and sanitation profiles finished their missions at the beginning of July and the RDRT team leader and wat/san delegate at the end of July. The Romanian RC is continuing the operation with the support of the Regional Delegation in Budapest, and no further RDRT missions are envisaged. Support to produce the final report (both narrative and financial) may be requested by the National Society.

The Romanian RC has continued to play a key role in initiating and organizing the now bi monthly interagency meetings held in Bucharest. These meetings are a forum for sharing information and coordinating humanitarian assistance in the affected areas between the various agencies, including: Caritas, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Save the Children, UNICEF, USAID, UNDP, CHF International, Romani CRISS, and World

Vision. The agencies plan their assistance better to avoid duplication, as a result of these meetings. All agencies are facing funding issues due to the low visibility of the disaster in the public sphere and have had to narrow their scope of assistance. Although representatives of authorities were invited the participation was rather weak. The last meeting was attended by a representative from the EU delegation in Romania.

National Society Capacity Building

Capacities at the Romanian RC headquarters and branch level remain limited, with each staff performing a variety of duties related to different sectors. Romanian RC currently has acting DM coordinator, who is employed on a part time basis due to his parallel employment with the Ministry of Defense. It is his and the Romanian RC wish that he becomes a full time employee and DM coordinator but it depends on when the Ministry of Defense will approve his retirement. In the last two months he has been available full time for the Romanian RC since he had taken entitled annual leave from the Ministry. He is an experienced logistician and has been a great help to the Romanian RC. He has been regularly visiting branches affected by floods and monitored distribution process.

Romanian RC board has approved new organizational chart, consisting of Operational division and Service division. It is planned to have three directors under operational division, reporting to general director: Emergency (DM) director, Projects and Programme director, Organizational Development/Human Resources (OD/HR) director. For the first two positions, possible candidates are indentified, but other key positions are still open including hygiene promotion coordinator and administration.

Two workshops on OD topics combined with Disaster Management and Finance for branch directors and key staff from HQ will take place by the end of the year.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Romanian RC staff is continuing with its communication initiatives, including press releases, interviews and field visits. The PR officer has been closely involved with the development of materials for the hygiene promotion information campaign to ensure relevant and simple messages and dissemination methods that correspond to local habits.

[Financial report below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRRO001 - ROMANIA: FLOODS

Interim Financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/04-2006/09
Budget Timeframe	2006/04-2006/12
Appeal	MDRRO001
Budget	APPEAL

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		2'067'057				2'067'057
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross		6'165				6'165
British Red Cross		91'160				91'160
Japanese Red Cross Society		79'219				79'219
Liechtenstein Red Cross		20'125				20'125
Monaco Red Cross		15'700				15'700
Netherlands Red Cross		121'557				121'557
Swiss Red Cross		7'313				7'313
C1. Cash contributions		341'239				341'239
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
DREF		168'217				168'217
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)		168'217				168'217
Inkind Goods & Transport						
Other		118'012				118'012
C4. Inkind Goods & Transport		118'012				118'012
Inkind Personnel						
Netherlands Red Cross		4'400				4'400
C5. Inkind Personnel		4'400				4'400
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		631'867				631'867
D. Total Funding = B + C		631'867				631'867

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		631'867				631'867
E. Expenditure		-439'754				-439'754
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		192'113				192'113

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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)		2'067'057					2'067'057	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	352'510		112'500			112'500	240'010	
Construction Materials	43'350						43'350	
Clothing & textiles	77'712		12			12	77'700	
Food			38'205			38'205	-38'205	
Water & Sanitation	75'600		7'733			7'733	67'867	
Utensils & Tools	48'000						48'000	
Other Supplies & Services	1'030'000						1'030'000	
Total Supplies	1'627'172		158'450			158'450	1'468'722	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	30'000						30'000	
Computers & Telecom	6'090		104			104	5'986	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	36'090		104			104	35'986	
Transport & Storage								
Storage			1'793			1'793	-1'793	
Distribution & Monitoring	7'000		7'574			7'574	-574	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	18'300		10'672			10'672	7'628	
Total Transport & Storage	25'300		20'038			20'038	5'262	
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll			12'353			12'353	-12'353	
Delegate Benefits	102'750		4'967			4'967	97'783	
Regionally Deployed Staff	40'550		7'609			7'609	32'941	
National Society Staff	29'700		5'607			5'607	24'093	
Consultants	6'750		706			706	6'044	
Total Personnel Expenditures	179'750		31'241			31'241	148'509	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	25'500						25'500	
Total Workshops & Training	25'500						25'500	
General Expenditure								
Travel	12'000		83'661			83'661	-71'661	
Information & Public Relation	10'800		75			75	10'725	
Office Costs	4'750		1'033			1'033	3'717	
Communications	11'336		5'213			5'213	6'123	
Financial Charges			975			975	-975	
Total General Expenditure	38'886		90'959			90'959	-52'073	
Program Support								
Program Support	134'359		27'732			27'732	106'627	
Total Program Support	134'359		27'732			27'732	106'627	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			111'230			111'230	-111'230	
Total Operational Provisions			111'230			111'230	-111'230	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	2'067'057		439'754			439'754	1'627'302	
VARIANCE (C - D)			1'627'302			1'627'302		