

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Serbia: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRRS001
GLIDE n° FL-2007-000217-SRB
15 May 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: Summary: CHF 111,080 (USD 99,152 or EUR 67,203) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross of Serbia in delivering immediate assistance to some 4,200 beneficiaries and replenish the disaster preparedness stocks.

This final report highlights the activities the Red Cross of Serbia has implemented in the immediate response to the situation. The focus is on the provision of food, water and hygiene items to families whose households have been damaged by the floods and assistance with mitigation of the damage through the provision of water pumps and dehumidifiers. This operation was successfully completed by February 2008.



Distribution of drinking water in Babušnica.
Photo: Red Cross of Serbia

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

After heavy rains on 25 and 26 November 2007, the southern and south-eastern part of Serbia 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 existed and the distribution of goods was still possible.

There were no casualties but a lot of property was damaged. In addition, this part of Serbia is one of the poorest areas with a predominantly older population.

The following table shows some essential data on the damage done and on the population affected according to a joint field assessment conducted by the Red Cross of Serbia and the local crisis headquarters:

	Municipality	Settlement/ village	Population	Number of flooded houses	Number of people affected		
	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
PIROT Total			40,678	590	1,770		
	BABUŠNICA	Babušnica	4,500	1,500	4,000		
		Izvor	11,200				
		Donji Striževac					
		Draginac					
		Gorčince					
	Ljuberadja						
BABUŠNICA Total			15,700	1,500	4,000		
	VLASOTINCE	Vlasotince	36,000	1,300	3,900		
		Selo Svodje					
		Selo Boljare					
		Selo Kruševica					
		Selo Manastirište					
		Selo Šišava					
		Selo Stajkovce					
		Selo Gložane					
VLASOTINCE Total				1,300	3,900		
	LESKOVAC	Leskovac	76,000	150	750		
	LEBANE	Selo Pertat	20,000	100	300		
		Selo Bošnjac		80	240		
		Selo Konjin		50	150		
LEBANE Total				230	690		
	DOLJEVAC	Selo Pukovac	21,000	80	240		
		Selo Šainovac		30	120		
		Selo Belotinac		40	120		
DOLJEVAC Total				150	480		
	BELA PALANKA		17,000	260	780		
Grand Total				4,180	12,370		

The population was evacuated only in Vlasotince municipality. A total of 172 Roma people were evacuated from their settlement and 122 of them still 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 allowed for accommodation in the flooded areas, albeit with certain risks.

The municipalities of Vlasotince and Babušnica had their authorities declare a state of emergency. The water receded over the next four weeks, but in the Vlasina region the underground waters slowed down the recession, keeping the basements of houses flooded, which slowed down the return of the population to full use of their property.

The heavy rainfalls and the breakdown of water installations in the city of Niš have contributed to water shortages, with 40,000 people being without running water at one time. This region suffered an outbreak of Hepatitis-A in November that preceded the floods by several weeks with several hundred people receiving treatment over the following months and the epidemic dying down eventually.

In response to the situation the government of Serbia made a provision of 48,000,000 dinars (approximately 550,000 Euro) to be used to assist the affected areas with infrastructure repairs and other needs of the population and another 15,000,000 (approximately 187,000 Euro) for damages.

The response of the Red Cross of Serbia was immediate and even before the launch of the DREF request and the granting of funds, it had provided direct assistance in food and hygiene items to the most vulnerable population, following the assessments done jointly with local crisis headquarters. The extent of the damage in some of the municipalities in the meantime became apparent, with, for instance the municipality of Babušnica having to repair almost its entire water system.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

The Red Cross of Vlasotince municipality has participated in the evacuation of 172 members of its Roma population from their flooded settlements. Out of these people, 50 ended up in a collective centre for which the Red Cross provided beds, mattresses, bed linen, kitchen sets and water tanks.

According to the assessment conducted by the Red Cross of Serbia in cooperation with the local crisis headquarters, 1,500 families, or 4,200 people, throughout all the municipalities needed assistance. The particularly vulnerable groups targeted by this intervention were:

- older households
- bigger/poorer families
- families or people with special needs

This particularly vulnerable population mostly continued living in their own houses, which had been damaged by water and their possessions and food reserves lost. Moreover, they had to struggle with the lack of drinking water.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: The 1,400 vulnerable families in the affected area are provided with canned food to assist them through the first several days of coping with the damage done to their households, until they are able to prepare their own food again.

Activities planned:

- assessment of needs
- creation of beneficiary lists
- distribution of food
- monitoring

Progress and impact:

Following the assessment conducted jointly with the local crisis headquarters, lists of beneficiaries and their needs were made. The food distribution was finalized in the week of 10 December in Babusnica; Pirot and

Bela Palanka, with the rest of the municipalities being finalized in January. The following table describes the distribution:

	Municipality	Canned food			
		Canned meat/ 150g	Canned pate 150g	Canned fish/125g	Ready to eat meals /200g
1.	DOLJEVAC	400	400	400	360
2.	BABUŠNICA	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,800
3.	PIROT	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,700
4.	VLASOTINCE	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,400
5.	LESKOVAC	325	325	325	300
6.	LEBANE	325	325	325	300
7.	BELA PALANKA	370	370	370	300
8.	BOJNIK	65	65	65	60
9.	MEDVEDJA	40	40	40	36
		1,376 families	1,376 families	1,376 families	1,376 families
		9,000	9,000	9,000	8,256
	RCS stock replenishment¹	600	600	600	-
	RCS stock	400	400	400	1,744
	Total	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

The food provided to the most vulnerable families means that their immediate/ mid-term nourishment needs were met.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, through the use of water tanks and jerry cans, as well as hygiene promotion through special leaflets provided to 1,400 families in the affected area, until the existing water infrastructure is safe to use again.

Activities planned:

- assessment of the needs
- provision of safe water to 1,400 families in the affected area
- provision of portable water and hygiene promotion for 1,400 families in the affected area

Progress and impact:

Drinking water has been provided to the affected population, to all the planned families, through the use of water tanks. The Red Cross of Serbia has, in coordination with the local authorities, provided its mobile and stationary water tanks, filled by the fire brigade in Pirot and used either on trucks or stationed in schools (Babusnica) or kindergarten (Bela Palanka).

To ensure correct hygienic behaviour among the affected population and prevent outbreaks of waterborne and water related diseases, the Red Cross of Serbia has produced a leaflet, its contents provided by the Institute for Public Health, with guidelines to the population relating to water, food and the most common water related diseases. Increase in Hepatitis-A was detected in the municipalities of Nis, Leskovac, Bela Palanka and Pirot approximately one month before the floods and the Red Cross of Serbia responded with the timely distribution of family hygiene parcels. The health promotion leaflet has been printed in 25,000 copies and the following table shows its distribution as well as the use of water tanks to provide safe water:

	Municipality	Hygiene leaflet	Water tanks
1.	DOLJEVAC	1,000	
2.	BABUŠNICA	3,000	5
3.	PIROT	3,000	
4.	VLASOTINCE	3,000	

¹ The goods distributed from the Red Cross of Serbia stock before the DREF funding was granted.

5.	LESKOVAC	3,000	2
6.	LEBANE	1,500	2
7.	BELA PALANKA	1,500	2
8.	BOJNIK	500	
9.	MEDVEDJA	500	
10.	NIŠ	5,000	4
		22,000	
	RCS stock replenishment	-	
	RCS stock	3,000	
	Total	25,000	15²

For all the municipalities where the distribution of leaflets was carried out, the Red Cross of Serbia and the Institute for Public Health in Niš organized lectures for pre-school, elementary and secondary schoolchildren and their parents, covering the topics from the leaflet. More than 100 individual lectures for more than 20,000 people were organized, contributing to the prevention of the spread of waterborne or water related diseases.

Provision of hygiene items

Objective: The risk of an outbreak of infectious diseases is reduced through the provision of hygiene parcels to 1,400 families in the affected area.

Activities planned:

- assessment of the needs
- creation of beneficiary lists
- distribution of hygiene parcels
- monitoring

Following the assessment conducted jointly with the local crisis headquarters, lists of beneficiaries and their needs were made. The distribution was finalized in the week of 10 December. The following table describes the distribution:

	Municipality	Family hygiene parcels	Disinfectant/ litres	Rubber boots
1.	DOLJEVAC	60	60	30
2.	BABUŠNICA	300	400	130
3.	PIROT	400	600	170
4.	VLASOTINCE	200	-	170
5.	LESKOVAC	50	50	20
6.	LEBANE	-	50	20
7.	BELA PALANKA	100	50	30
8.	BOJNIK	20	10	20
9.	MEDVEDJA	12	10	10
10.	NIŠ	-	270	-
		1,100 families	1,500 families	1,500 families
		1,142	1,500	600
	RCS stock replenishment³	858	-	630
	RCS stock	-	-	270
	Total	2,000	1,500	1,500

² The water tanks used are all from the warehouses of the Red Cross of Serbia, and another seven were procured from the DREF funds.

³ The replenishment of parcels already distributed before the DREF allocation.

While hygiene parcels helped the affected population take care of their personal hygienic needs and ensured the risk of infectious outbreaks was kept at minimum, the provision of disinfectant and rubber boots was to assist the families with working in their still flooded houses/ basements and disinfecting the rooms where the water had receded from. The fact that in many cases the basements of the houses were flooded with water that washed out the nearby cesspools necessitated thorough disinfection prior to the future use of these facilities.

Assistance with draining water

Objective: To assist with the mitigation of damage made to the houses, and ensure that the houses where the basements are still filled with water are equipped with electrical water and mud pumps.

Activities planned:

- assessment of the needs (involving an expert to advise on the use of pumps)
- creation of priority lists
- provision of pumps
- monitoring

The provision of water pumps to the still flooded houses and the provision of electric dehumidifiers to houses where the water has receded are described in the following table:

	Municipality	Electric water pump			Electric dehumidifier		
		Number of pumps	Total hours	Total houses	Number of machines	Total hours	Total houses
1.	Bela Palanka	5	356	48			
2.	Lebane	5	40	4			
3.	Leskovac						
4.	Vlasotince				5	654	7
5.	Pirot	5	30	3	5	876	7
6.	Babusnica	5	10	1	2	65	2
7.	Doljevac	5	355	5			
8.	Bojnik						
9.	Medvedja						
Total:		25	791	61	12	1,595	16

The use of pumps was essential to assisting the population whose houses, mostly basements, still had water in them. The use of dehumidifiers accelerated the process of drying and helped shorten the time in which the houses become habitable and hygienically safe down to approximately three months, as opposed to six or more months for houses without dehumidifiers as experienced in similar situations in the past.

Conclusion

The overall distribution during the whole intervention can be seen in the following table:

Item	DOLJEVAC	BABUŠNICA	PIROT	VLASOTINCE	NIŠ	LESKOVAC	LEBANE	BELA PALANKA	BOJNIK	MEDVEDJA	Total
Water tank 1,000 l	-	5	-	-	4	2	2	2	-	-	15
Family hygiene parcel	120	500	600	400	-	100	100	150	20	12	2002
Baby hygiene parcel	10	15	30	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	75
Baby bath tub	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Rubber boots	60	230	270	370	-	70	120	80	20	10	1230
High rubber boots	-	5	5	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Blanket	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Bed linen set	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Mattress	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Raincoat	12	100	24	18	-	-	12	12	-	-	178
Dehumidifier	-	5	10	8	-	-	3	2	1	1	30
Canned meat 150g	400	1950	2925	2900	-	325	625	370	65	40	9600
Meat pate can 150g	400	1950	2925	2900	-	325	625	370	65	40	9600
Canned fish 125g	400	1950	2925	2900	-	325	625	370	65	40	9600
Red Cross of Serbia uniform	12	12	24	18	-	-	12	12	-	-	90⁴
Electric water pump	5	5	5	5	-	5	5	5	-	-	35
Ready to eat meals	360	1800	2700	2400	-	300	300	300	60	36	8256
Disinfectant	60	400	600	-	270	50	50	50	10	10	1500
Leaflet	1000	3000	3000	3000	5000	3000	1500	1500	500	500	22.000

The Red Cross of Serbia has been an integral part of the wider response to the floods. All the affected municipalities have mobilized the existing crisis headquarters which in all cases involved secretaries of the municipal Red Cross branches. The Red Cross of Serbia coordinated the work of its municipal branches and at the same time coordinated its activities with the Republic Civil Protection headquarters. Two national disaster response and assessment team members have been active in the field since 7 December assisting with the detailed analysis of the needs, monitoring and reporting, as well as with the technical guidelines on the use of the equipment.

The US Embassy through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Department of Defense, European Command (EUCOM) responded with 55,000 US dollars in immediate assistance, coordinating specific needs and amounts with the local administration, the Centre for Social Work, communal enterprises and the Red Cross of Serbia. These funds have been used to assist the municipality of Vlasotince.

In comparison with previous responses to floods, for example in 2006, the performance of the Red Cross of Serbia has been quicker and more efficient, putting to good use the experience, training and procedures acquired in the meantime. The essential link with the local stakeholders that was far less pronounced in previous operations was established from the very start in this operation, the Red Cross of Serbia not merely being viewed as distribution service, but as the indispensable capacity in terms of assessment, direct assistance and education.

⁴ Aside from the 90 distributed uniforms (jackets and T-shirts) another 10 jackets and 110 T-shirts have been put into stock.

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRRS001 - SERBIA - FLOODS

Final Financial Statement

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/10-2008/02
Budget Timeframe	2007/12-2008/02
Appeal	MDRRS001
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		111,080				111,080
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		111,080				111,080
C5. Other Income		111,080				111,080
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		111,080				111,080
D. Total Funding = B + C		111,080				111,080
Appeal Coverage		100%				100%

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		111,080				111,080
E. Expenditure		-111,080				-111,080
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRRS001 - SERBIA - FLOODS

Final Financial Statement

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/10-2008/02
Budget Timeframe	2007/12-2008/02
Appeal	MDRRS001
Budget	APPEAL

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)		111,080					111,080	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	17,500		22,648			22,648	-5,148	
Food	41,900		33,420			33,420	8,480	
Water & Sanitation	16,700		16,468			16,468	232	
Utensils & Tools	4,700						4,700	
Other Supplies & Services	13,000		19,999			19,999	-6,999	
Total Supplies	93,800		92,536			92,536	1,264	
Transport & Storage								
Storage	3,150		913			913	2,237	
Distribution & Monitoring			1,856			1,856	-1,856	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	150		1,725			1,725	-1,575	
Total Transport & Storage	3,300		4,494			4,494	-1,194	
Personnel								
National Staff	3,110		2,104			2,104	1,006	
National Society Staff			189			189	-189	
Total Personnel	3,110		2,293			2,293	817	
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relation	3,500		4,349			4,349	-849	
Communications	150		100			100	50	
Financial Charges			88			88	-88	
Total General Expenditure	3,650		4,537			4,537	-887	
Programme Support								
Program Support	7,220		7,220			7,220	0	
Total Programme Support	7,220		7,220			7,220	0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	111,080		111,080			111,080	0	
VARIANCE (C - D)			0			0		