

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Serbia: Floods

**DREF operation n° MDRRS002**  
**GLIDE no. FL-2009-000245-SRB**  
**16 November 2009**

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 and 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.

**CHF 51,027 (USD 50,574 or EUR 33,779) has been allocated from the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,210 beneficiaries or 1,080 families and to replenish emergency stocks. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

### Summary:

Heavy rains in the south-west of Serbia caused floods in many villages and cities on 6-7 November, forcing some 300 families to leave their houses and find temporary accommodation with neighbours or relatives. The floods also destroyed food reserves, agricultural soil and household equipment of some 1,080 families.



Flooded house in Bujanovac.  
Photo: International Federation

The Red Cross of Serbia responded by distributing food and non-food items from its disaster preparedness stock, based on the local Red Cross assessment results and criteria established with the municipal crisis headquarters. The assessment is still ongoing and more families are expected to be reported as affected. The assessment results will therefore define further distribution to the population. Some of the items planned to be purchased will also be used to replenish the National Society's disaster preparedness stock.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 16 February 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 16 May 2010).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for the map of affected areas, or here for contact details>](#)

## The situation

Heavy rains that occurred last week caused floods in many villages and cities in the south-west part of Serbia. Hundreds of people were evacuated on 6-7 November due to the rise of water levels in the rivers of Đetinja, Moravica and Zapadna Morava. The water flooded houses and other buildings in the following municipalities: Užice, Arilje, Požega, Lučani, Čačak, Gornji Milanovac, Sjenica, Bujanovac, Priboj, Raška, Nova Varoš and Prijepolje. Tens of thousands of families in several cities were left without drinking water for

24-40 hours due to the “Rzav” water distribution system being compromised. Houses and personal belongings, agricultural soil and equipment were damaged.

In addition, landslides occurred in several municipalities, most notably in Nova Varoš and Sjenica.

Some 300 families have left their houses and are in temporary accommodation with their neighbours or relatives.

## Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation’s country representation in Serbia and the Red Cross of Serbia are cooperating closely in providing emergency assistance to the most affected people. The operation is coordinated jointly by the National Society’s disaster preparedness programme coordinator and the International Federation’s disaster manager in Belgrade.

The procurement of the emergency items to be used for replenishing the National Society’s stock will be done by the Federation to overcome the long procurement procedures the National Society is obliged to follow. All Red Cross activities will be carried out in coordination with local municipal authorities and social welfare institutions. The Federation representation, using the opportunity of going through a procurement process, will train two regional disaster response team (RDRT) members from the Red Cross of Serbia. Thus, they will be able to assist any neighbouring National Society in procurement according to Federation standards in future RDRT missions.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross of Serbia’s local branches, with assistance from the headquarters, have been assessing the urgent needs of the affected population in the hardest hit municipalities and distributing relief items according to the needs. The assessment is continuing in the municipalities that have been affected in the last three days.

Due to the continuing assessment, there are still a number of families expected to be reported as affected. Therefore, a number of relief items will be used to assist these families and also some to replenish part of the emergency stocks of the Red Cross of Serbia used in their initial response to the situation.

## The needs

The Red Cross assessment teams, together with the municipal authorities in some cases, conducted a rapid assessment in the flooded areas. The assessment so far indicates that in total 1,080 families or approximately 3,210 people are severely affected by the floods and are in need of urgent assistance. Out of this number around 300 families had to be evacuated from their houses and sheltered with relatives, neighbours or friends. It is likely that the families will be returning to their homes once the water recedes. Still many of their belongings like blankets, mattresses, food and non-food items are destroyed. The planned assistance will provide them with basic items needed to get through the coming weeks.

Based on the assessment done by the Red Cross along with municipal crisis headquarters in the affected communities the following relief items from the National Society’s stock were urgently dispatched to the field:

### Immediate response of the Red Cross of Serbia based on the preliminary assessment of the situation (distribution on 10-11 November 2009)

Items	Amount
Dehumidification machines	30
Water pumps	5
Blankets	990
Mattresses	50
Canned meat (beef, pork, meat pate, fish)	5,500
Ready-to-eat meals	1,500
Tea	2,000 boxes
Plastic sheeting	20,000 square metres
Information leaflets on water-borne diseases	4,000

## The proposed operation

The overall goal of the operation is to preserve the health of the population affected by floods through the provision of food and non-food relief items and to facilitate their return to their houses through the provision of water pumps and dehumidification machines.

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: 1,080 families or approximately 3,210 people, displaced from their homes or living in damaged houses are provided with food items (sufficient for a week) and hygiene parcels (sufficient for a month).**

#### Activities planned:

- Assessment of needs and preparation of beneficiary lists;
- Procurement of emergency items;
- Distribution of emergency items by the Red Cross branches;
- Coordination with the local municipal authorities and social welfare institutions;
- Monitoring and reporting.

### Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

**Objective: The risk of water-borne and water-related diseases has been reduced through the provision of disinfectants, dehumidification machines and water pumps for the most flooded/damaged houses, as well as through the provision of information leaflets to the population in the affected areas.**

#### Activities planned:

- Assessment of needs and preparation of beneficiary lists
- Preparation of info/ educational leaflets;
- Distribution of disinfectants (1,400 litres), dehumidification machines and water pumps by Red Cross branches;
- Distribution of around 8,000 leaflets by Red Cross branches;
- Coordination with the local municipal authorities and social welfare institutions;
- Monitoring and reporting.

As part of the monitoring and evaluation activities, a survey will be conducted after the operation among the people reached to find out what they felt about the goods and services they received, and whether their needs were met through the Red Cross assistance.

## Budget

<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>36,600</b>
Clothing & Textiles	7,500
Food	11,500
Seeds & Plants	6,600
Teaching Materials	4,500
Other Supplies & Services	6,500
<b>TRANSPORT, STORAGE &amp; VEHICLES</b>	<b>3,500</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	3,050
Transport & Vehicles Costs	450
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	<b>6,750</b>
Regionally Deployed Staff	5,100
National Staff	1,650
<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>860</b>
Travel	360
Communication Costs	500

<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>47,710</b>
<b>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</b>	
Programme Support - PSR	3,317
<b>Total Operational Needs</b>	<b>51,027</b>
<b>Net Request</b>	<b>51,027</b>

## 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

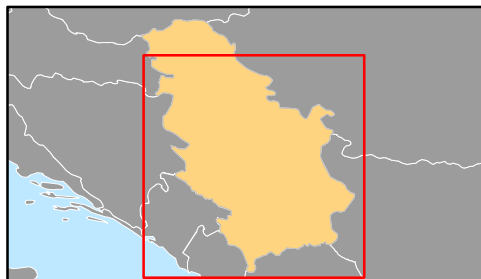
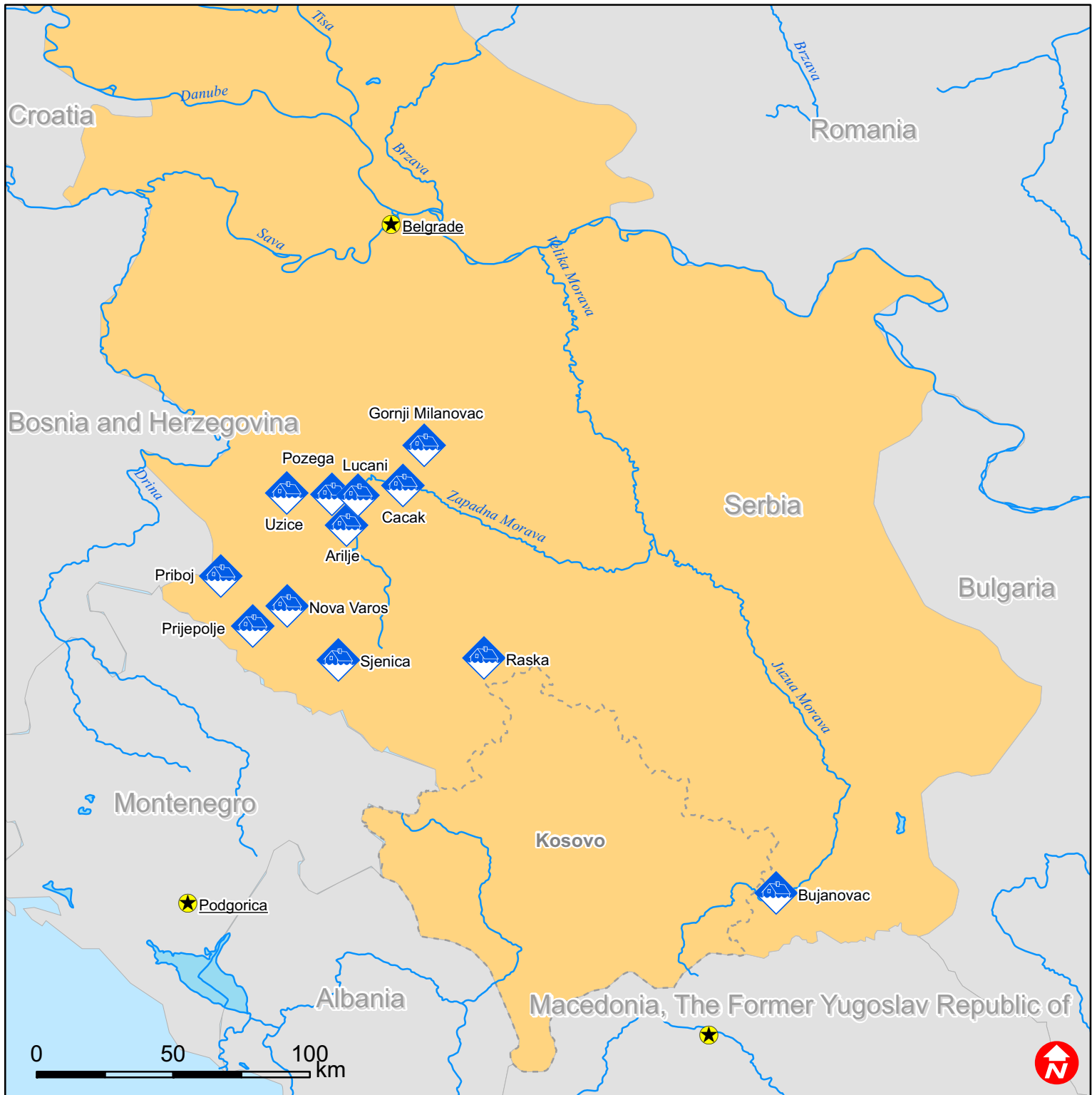
**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**




- **In Red Cross of Serbia:** Vesna Milenović, Secretary General, phone: +381 11 30 32 125, email: [secretary@redcross.org.rs](mailto:secretary@redcross.org.rs)
- **In Country Representation:** Olav Ofstad, Federation Representative for Serbia and Montenegro, Belgrade, phone: +381 633 25 895, email: [olav.ofstad@ifrc.org](mailto:olav.ofstad@ifrc.org)
- **In Europe Zone Office:** Slobodanka Curic, Disaster Management Coordinator, Budapest, phone: +361 8884 510; fax: +36 1 336 1516; email: [slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org](mailto:slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org)
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator, phone: +41 22 730 4381, fax: +41 22 733 0395, email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org)

[<Map below, click here to return to the title page>](#)



# Serbia: Floods



-  Flooded municipalities
-  Capitals
-  Main rivers