

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Albania: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRAL003
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000248-ALB
06 December, 2010

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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 204,031 (USD 208,860 or EUR 156,274) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,000 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Due to the heavy rainfalls in recent days in the northern part of Albania, the Drini river level has been increasing, which has consequently increased the water levels in three connected lakes near hydroelectric power plants.

The authorities were obliged to open the emergency dam gates and release the water from the lakes into the Shkodra lake, which, together with heavy rainfalls, caused flooding in the prefectures of Shkodra and Lezha affecting more than 14,000 people.

To address the situation, the Red Cross Society of Albania with support from the International Federation will assist 2,000 families in temporary accommodation and/ or in their flooded houses with basic food and non-food items



Albanian Red Cross assessing the situation caused by floods
Photo: Albanian Red Cross

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 05 March 2011. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 05 June 2011).

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

The situation

Heavy rain going on uninterrupted for almost two weeks has increased the levels of Buna, Kiri, Prroi Thate and Drini rivers as well the level of Shkodra lake. Furthermore, the water level in three artificial lakes (Fierza,

Koman and Vau i Dejes) on Drini River has also risen. This forced the authorities to open the emergency dam gates and release the water in an effort to avoid damages. The water flow at the moment of release was approximately 3500 cubic metres per second, while the operative capacity of the dam is 800 cubic metres per second.

The consequences of releasing this quantity of water into the Shkodra Lake are floods in a large area covering Shkodra town and its surroundings. The Dajç, Velipojë, Oboti, Darragjati, Berdise, Bushat, Gur i Zi Communes are at the moment totally surrounded by water. Water has reached Shkodra town, flooding the areas of Livadhe and Ajasem, inundating houses, businesses buildings and gas stations. Also, the water is threatening to break the Torrovice dam which is a key barrier protecting Lezha Prefecture and the neighbour communes.

The main road to Shkodra town is flooded as well as Berdicës Arch, part of Shkodra-Tirana axis. The secondary road, up in the hills is currently in use going to Shkodra town. The Albanian Government declared a natural disaster situation on 30 November 2010 and the Prime Minister called for the rapid evacuation of the population. This area has already suffered heavy floods in January 2010 and the fresh floods are likely to deteriorate the situation drastically.

The army and police forces are coordinating the evacuation of residents from flooded areas by boats and military vehicles. The evacuated families are accommodated in 3 dormitory schools and a military building. The hotels in Shkodra and Velipoja are accommodating more evacuated people and the army has set up a tents camp as well. So far the families are assisted with food and water by the government.

The latest information provided by the Emergency Commission in Shkodra prefecture on December 3rd, 2010 reports the number of people evacuated to be 14,500, 80 per cent of whom are accommodated with their relatives and the rest in the abovementioned collective centres.

These are the preliminary data received from Emergency Commission on the flooded area and the people evacuated:

- 2,000 evacuated people and accommodate in the collective centres.
- 12,500 evacuated people accommodated with their relatives;
- 14,000 acres of land flooded,
- 2,200 houses surrounded by water, most of them already flooded
- 11,500 animals evacuated
- 1,000 houses from Lezha communes in alert to be evacuated.

Coordination and partnerships

Albanian Red Cross has been closely coordinating with the authorities at both local and national level.

The secretary of Shkodra branch has been participating in the meeting of the Emergency Management Group in this prefecture.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The local Red Cross branch in Shkodra has been intensively monitoring the development of the situation right from the beginning. The Red Cross has been in close contact with the director of Civil Emergency, the prefect of Shkodra and with the state and local authorities.

The disaster management coordinator at the Albanian Red Cross HQ has advised and assisted the Shkodra branch staff involved in the response. Around 40 trained volunteers are mobilized for response activities. The Shkodra branch is ready to start purchasing fresh food for the families accommodated in collective centres.

So far the Red Cross volunteers were involved in monitoring the situation, collecting information, and distributing the blankets and hygienic parcels for 110 families affected by the flood in Obot and Ana Malit. The distribution took place on 29 November 2010 in coordination with local Authorities in Shkodra Prefecture and the following goods were provided:

Item	Quantity
White Flour	2750 kg
Hygiene kits	110
Blankets	220

Table 1: Items distributed by the Albanian Red Cross

The Albanian Red Cross logistics department has prepared the stock with non-food items ready to be delivered to the affected area. The stock contains the following items:

Items	Quantity
Blankets	12,000
Hygiene kits	2,000
Mattresses	300
Tents	220
Wheat flour	20 T

Table 2: Goods ready for distribution from the Albanian Red Cross stock

The needs

A preliminary assessment has been conducted to assess the damage occurred in order to prioritize the needs of the affected population.

The major damages identified:

- Houses (walls, floors, cellars, installations)
- Home equipment and furniture
- Winter reserves of corn and vegetables
- Livestock and livestock food
- Corn plants

The priority needs are as follows:

- Evacuation of the families in danger
- Safe drinking water
- Food (ready to eat meals and basic food parcels for those accommodated with their relatives)
- The awareness of the risk of water borne diseases.

The proposed operation

Based on the information collected from field, direct meetings with the affected people and in coordination with relevant authorities at local and national level the need for food and non-food items for the people accommodated at host families has been identified.

The estimated number of people in need of support in the most affected areas is about 14,500 persons. The Albanian Red Cross in coordination with Government Authorities is preparing support for 2,000 families for three months, including distribution of food and non food items as well as workshops to ensure prevention of spreading of water borne diseases.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 2,000 families in the most affected villages in Shkodra prefecture are provided with humanitarian assistance in the form of food ready to eat, basic food, and non-food items and drinking water

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

Output: Members of 2,000 families from the most affected areas have their nutritional and hygiene needs met through provision of food, non-food items and safe drinking water

Activities:

- Preparation of final lists of beneficiaries together with the local management commission and local

authorities

- Procurement and delivery of relief supplies to the beneficiaries
- Organising six awareness raising activities with the communities to discuss individual and community hygiene
- Monitoring and evaluation of the relief activities and reporting on the relief distributions

The families to be assisted are selected according to the following criteria:

- Evacuated people in the collective centres including Roma people.
- Evacuated families accommodated with their relatives

Each family shall receive the following items:

Food ready to eat

- One meal/day for 1000 persons for 15 days.

Food items

- 25 kg of white flour
- 5 kg of rice
- 5 litres of vegetable oil
- 5 kg of sugar
- 5 kg of white beans

Non-food items

- 4 blanket
- 1 hygienic kit
- 1 mattress

The non-food items will be distributed from the disaster preparedness stock and it will be replenished later on, while the food items will be purchased from the supplier with whom the Albanian Red Cross already has signed contracts.

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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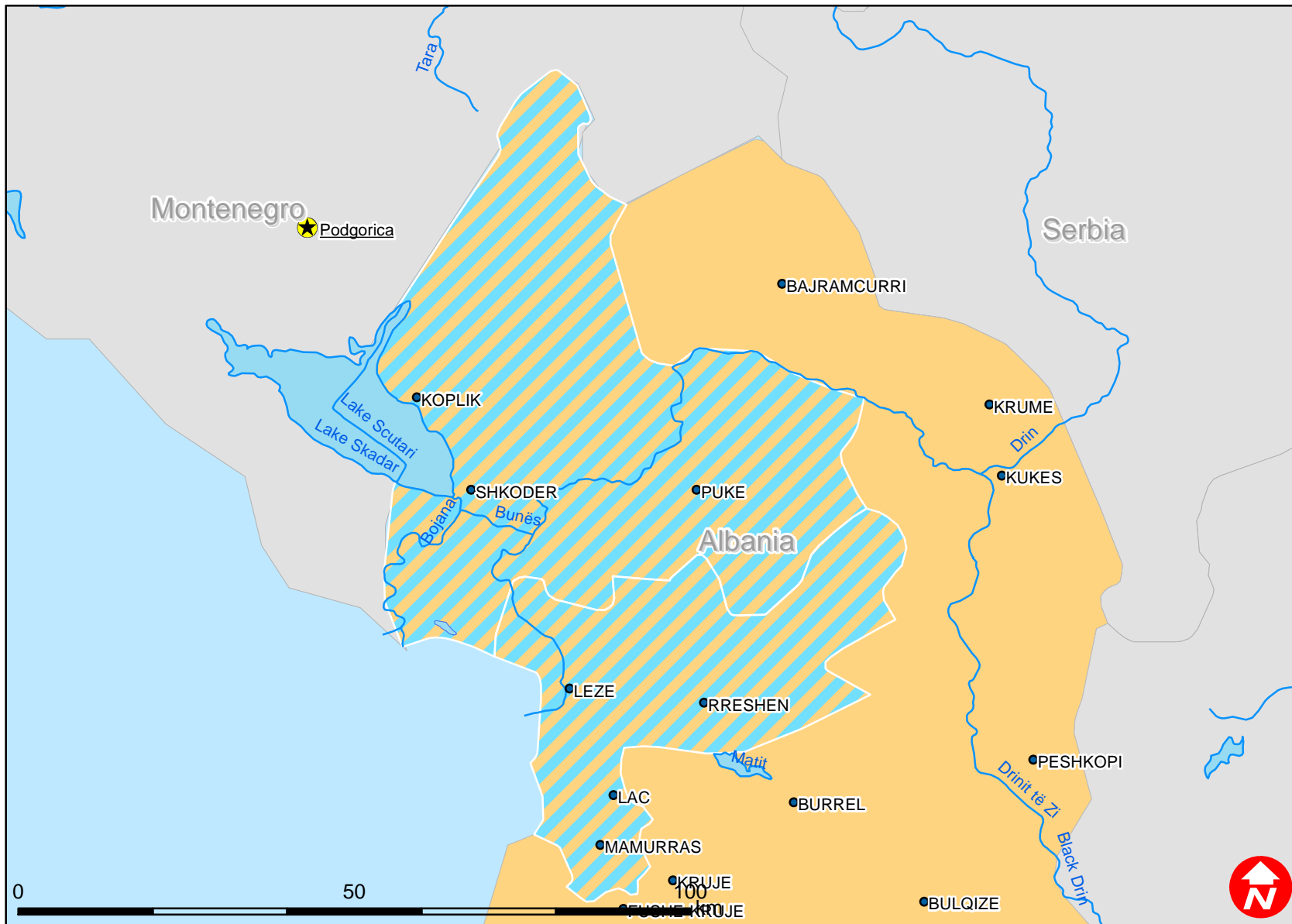
[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)


BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Food parcels (1,000 MRE+ food parcel for 2 months)	148,529	148,529
Water & Sanitation (Hygiene kit 1,000 Families)	14,706	14,706
Total Supplies	163,235	163,235
Storage	647	647
Distribution & Monitoring	3,451	3,451
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,137	3,137
Total Transport & Storage	7,235	7,235
International Staff	2,000	2,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	4,000	4,000
National Society Staff and volunteers - (ARC HQ and ARC)	6,716	6,716
Total Personnel	12,716	12,716
Workshops & Training (Meeting 6 commun x 50 persons)	2,206	2,206
Total Workshops & Training	2,206	2,206
Information & Public Relation (Hygiene campaign+Leaflet)	2,255	2,255
Office Costs	931	931
Communications	2,000	2,000
Financial Charges	1,000	1,000
Total General Expenditure	6,186	6,186
Program Support	12,453	12,453
Total Programme Support	12,453	12,453
TOTAL BUDGET	204,031	204,031



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 Affected prefectures

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, GIST, GRUMP, International Federation - MDRAL004.mxd