

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Moldova: Floods

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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.

Summary:

CHF 188,100 (USD 186,182 or EUR 146,426) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 8,000 beneficiaries from approximately 2,000 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Heavy rains and flooding in July 2010 has directly affected 12,000 people in Moldova. A total of 3,183 houses in several districts have been flooded out of which many are destroyed. Moreover several thousands of people have been evacuated. A national emergency has been declared by the prime minister who appealed to international organizations, NGOs and governments to assist in responding to the situation.

Through this operation the Moldova Red Cross will distribute humanitarian aid to 1,600 families amounting to 6,400 people in six branches to the people living in the villages affected by the floods. Assistance will include three distributions of food parcels and two distributions of hygiene kits. Moreover, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion will target the 1,000 most affected families in six branches.

On the 23rd of August 2010, the Norwegian Red Cross confirmed a contribution of NOK 455,609 or approximately CHF 87,928 from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This additional action will include enhanced support to those families who lost all their belongings as a result of the flood. During the assessment, 700 families were identified as especially in need. This project will address additional needs of these families, providing them with kitchen utensils, psychosocial support and training to improve their resilience.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 15 October 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 15 January, 2011).

The European Commission's Humanitarian Office (ECHO) contributed CHF 133,670 in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>



Distribution in children summer camp.
Photo: Moldova Red Cross

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The situation

Heavy and continuous rain in Moldova in July, lasting for several days, led to a dramatic increase in the level of water in the Nistru and Prut rivers. Subsequent flooding has caused severe problems in six regions in the country affecting some 1,600 families. As a consequence of the heavy rains and the ensuing floods a total of 3,183 houses in several districts have been flooded out of which many are destroyed.

The affected population live in small villages and their livelihood are severely damaged or destroyed altogether. Owing to the fact that the groups identified as the most vulnerable have lost or left behind essential goods for maintaining their livelihood, and are in great need of relief items such as food parcels, hygiene items, water, clothes, bed linens and blankets. Moreover the affected population needs information on best hygiene practices. For many families the floods has affected food reserves as well as the opportunity to breed animals.

According to local authorities 3,200 persons have been displaced from the Nemteni district. Among these were at least 100 large families with more than 8 members as well as 500 elderly people. Several inhabitants of Cotul-Marii have been evacuated to Obileni including highly vulnerable groups such as 50 pregnant women, 150 children below 1 year and 135 children. In Drepcauti, Criva and Macaresti villages more than 200 people were evacuated. The people evacuated are placed in schools, kindergartens, some private warehouses and their assistance and support will constitute a priority of the operation for the next 6 months (including the reconstruction of houses). The government has already provided mobile kitchens and toilets, shower cabins, water, food and medicines in the field in order to meet the minimum necessary conditions.

The emergency teams evacuated 1,371 children from summer camps as well as other people. The evacuated families are accommodated with their relatives, in primary schools and centres.

According to information provided by the Department of Civil Protection the following damages are registered in the affected areas:

Branch	District	Families affected	Dead/ Missing people	Flooded houses	Destroyed houses	Evacuated people
Hincesti	Nemteni	216	1 / 7	173	30	3,200
	Obileni	70	-	30	-	
	Săretăni	70		-	-	
	Cotul-Marii	1,880	-	240	2,600	335
Briceni	Sirauti	160	-	-	-	200
	Drepcauti	320	-	80	-	
	Criva	73	-	-	-	
Ungheni	Macaresti	42	-	30	-	
Cahul	Brinza	20	-	-	-	
Nisporemi	Grozesti	20	-	-	-	
Criuleni	-	62	-	-	-	
TOTAL		2,933	1	553	2,630	

Table 1: Assessment figures showing the number of families affected, people dead or missing, flooded and destroyed houses, and people evacuated.

In total 64 check points have been created along the Nistru and Prut rivers in order to monitor the level of water. Also, the police keep the protection dikes under observation. Still the water level in the rivers continues to rise as a consequence of continuous rain. The districts of Cahul, Glodeni, Falesti, Ungheni and Nisporeni remain subject to flooding hazards. Authorities remain worried about additional flooding from the Prut and Dniester rivers. In order to avoid a possible emergency in terms of gas leaks, the gas supply in the high pressure pipes in Ocnita district was stopped.

Several weeks after the floods, the situation of the affected population is still serious. The recovery phase is still in a process and the most affected are the people in the rural areas/ small villages and communities. A lot of houses were been destroyed and many people lost their households, crops and stocks. As a result of the floods, the food reserves for the winter are damaged or do not exist.

The flood had an immediate and a long term impact on the population and the economy. The most affected population are pensioners, invalids, unemployed, large families and children with one parent. The monthly allowance of these special groups is not enough to sustain over the next period.

Coordination and partnerships

The Prime Minister of Moldova has declared a national emergency due to the high number of affected people and severe material damages. In order to attract attention to the critical situation and the humanitarian consequences, and to appeal for international support, the Moldova government organized a multilateral meeting among international actors present in the country including the Federation, the World Bank, UN, EU, embassies and NGOs. Another meeting was held recently in order to update the actors on the latest measures and present the best solutions available to address the situation. The Prime Minister reiterated the appeal to the international community in order to meet immediate needs and ensure support for recovery.

The Moldova Red Cross has been in contact with the national department in charge of emergency situations as well as local authorities in each affected district. Permanent contact has been established with other agencies such as USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

Since the beginning of the floods the Moldova Red Cross has been informing the Federation representative in Moldova and the Europe Zone office in Budapest on the current situation and the Red Cross response.

A Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) was deployed from 16 to 30 of July to assess the situation. Field visits have been done in 5 affected rayon's (Hâncești, Criuleni, Ungheni, Briceni, and Cantemir). During this visits they had meeting with local authorities / governors; mayors, social workers, medical assistance and Red Cross branch directors. Visits to affected area, houses, households and interviews with affected population where conducted on the field as well.

The RDRT team together with National Society representatives and the Federation delegate had been in meetings with: UNDP Moldova, UNICEF, European Union Delegation Moldova, German Embassy in Moldova, USAID, Moldovan Government / Ministry of foreign affairs, Bulgarian Embassy in Moldova, French Embassy in Moldova, those served as further cooperation basis for the Moldova Red Cross.

Hundreds of personnel have been mobilized in order to construct dams and evacuate people including 517 employees from the Department of Civil Protection and Exceptional Situations; 700 police officers; 294 gendarmes: 105 border guards; 228 soldiers of the Armed Forces; and 26 rescuers from Romania. According to Moldova government plans are being prepared for constructing 500 houses within mid-November for which international support is being sought. Moreover, support of state officials to affected people will also include procurement of additional houses and material compensation.

The Romanian and Austrian governments are supporting the floods response in Moldova with mineral water, sand bags, plastic bags, and polyethylene. Measures to avoid duplication of international support are being implemented. Technical support and consulting have been required in order to assess the situation of Nistru and Prut rivers and to identify future floods solutions.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A Red Cross assessment team from the National Society visited the flooded area near Prut river on 7 July where it met with local authorities in Obileni, Cotul-Morii and Nemteni. Volunteers from local branches along with branch directors also contributed to assessing the situation.

The president of Moldova Red Cross gave interviews to the media and also contacted ten big supermarkets in order to collect food and hygiene materials.

Major distributors of drinking water including Aqua Nova, Coca-Cola and Selbin have also been contacted and they are committed to donate drinking water.

Also the RDRT organised a meeting with Red Cross branch directors from affected area has been organized in Chisinau. During the meeting, problems related to needs assessment, distribution, cooperation, disaster response, have been discussed and clarified together with the Moldova Red Cross headquarters.

The National Society has defined the most vulnerable groups as women, lonely elderly people, invalids and multi-children families out of which most has been evacuated.

The RDRT along with the NS representatives visited 5 of the most affected regions (raions. During this visits they had meeting with local authorities / governors; mayors, social workers and RC branch directors, meetings with internal and international agencies, organizations and institutions. Visits to affected area, public places, free markets, households and interviews where conducted on the field as well.

The National Society distributed relief items in the villages of Criva and Drepcauti in Briceni district and Nemteni village in Hincesti district. More than 200 families, mainly poor people and elderly people, received clothes and hygiene kits recently donated by the Swiss Red Cross. Moldova Red Cross branch directors in each affected district are closely monitoring the situation and reporting to the National Society headquarters. They also distributed toys and chocolates to 80 children in a summer camp on the 1st of August and blankets, bedlinen and food to 90 families on the 4th of August in Sarateni.

At the end of the RDRT mission the needs of the most vulnerable and the available data from the RC branches, local authorities, National Emergency situation and UN has been revised and shown in the following table:

Nr. crt	Rayon	People affected	Children	Woman	Elderly	Houses affected	Families affected
1	Criuleni	616	165	315	136	32	297
2	Briceni	258	66	59	10	62	93
3	Hancesti	3208	676	1250	536	1040	1040
4	Ungheni	333	58	102	33	84	101
5	Cantemir	208	34	39	42	52	52
	Total	4623	965	1726	715	1225	1600

* the situation is still changing day by day, new affected persons may occur

Progress towards outcomes

The operation is focusing on distribution of food and non-food items in six branches during a period of three months. The aid will be delivered and distributed by the volunteers trained in first aid and disaster response. It is expected that this operation will give good visibility to the National Society and improve their capacity and relations with stakeholders.

Target groups;

- Families, which have lost their houses or households because of the floods.
- Families, which have lost their crops and stocks for the next period due to the floods./ to be proved by local authorities and local branches trough a detailed assessment/
- The most affected are: children's without parents/ living with relatives, pensioners who have no other source of income, people with disabilities, single mothers with children, large families with no employed persons

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: Distribution of humanitarian aid to 1,600 families in six branches during three months, consisting of food parcels and hygiene kits.

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

The NS will work with two RDRT members in order to:

- Conduct detailed emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Procure relief supplies
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Organise coordination meetings to monitor the activities

The relief operation should be combined with strengthening of Moldavia Red Cross capacity to respond to future disasters. It should include:

1. Relief distribution for 3 months:
 - Food parcels – family (3 distributions)
 - Hygienic parcels – family (2 distributions)
2. Informational materials – brochures, posters, and identification materials -stickers to be produced

Content and quantities of proposed food and hygiene parcels;

The items listed below were discussed and proposed by the National Society, based on information and needs of the affected population, collected from the branches. The content of the food and hygienic parcels was composed according to the Emergency Items Catalogue, Sphere standards and local habits:

Food parcels/ per family / per month, 1600 family's (three distributions)

Food	Quantity
Sugar	2 kg
Rice	2 kg
Wheat flour	2 kg
Sunflower oil	2 l
Canned pork meat	3 pcs.x370 gr.

Hygiene parcels / per family – 1600 family's (two distributions)

Items	Quantity
Toilet soap	8 X 100 g
Shampoo	1 X 1 l
Washing powder	1 X 3 kg
Dishwasher	2 X 0,5 kg
Toilet paper	6 pcs.
Paper tissue	10 pcs

Distribution of food parcels and blankets has commenced and is currently ongoing. The local Red Cross directors together with their volunteers are working to locate families and people living with friends or relatives in order to be included in the coming distributions.

The additional contribution from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the activities that are financed from that target families and individuals evacuated from their houses, which have been seriously damaged, especially in the village Cotul-Morii. In the target group there are multi-children families, pensioners who live alone, people with disabilities, single-parent families, and other families that have lost their crops and stocks.

The project will secure support to a total of 700 families by providing kitchen sets, psychosocial support to at least 750 families, and training for 30 Moldova Red Cross staff and volunteers from community members in five regions of Moldova, as well as 20 representatives of other agencies active in the country on how to provide psychosocial support to members of communities hit by disaster.

It is anticipated that the training for 25 Red Cross youth volunteers will allow reducing domestic violence towards at least 50 highly vulnerable members of the affected communities (women, elderly and children).

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, Emergency health

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, water filters, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion to the most affected families in 4 branches for 3 months.

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

- Assess the existing water coverage with a view of ensuring availability of adequate water supply
- Promote hygiene education to 500 the most vulnerable families in Nemteni, Obileni and Cotul-Morii.

The authorities assure the provision of water to the affected population. Cleaning of wells is organised as health teams are placed at local levels. One hundred hygiene kits will be used to replenish the Moldova Red Cross emergency stocks. Volunteers will promote hygiene education in the selected villages.

Disaster Management capacity building

Outcome: Reinforce the capacity of local branches and volunteers in disaster management and first aid including promotion of Red Cross and Red Crescent Fundamental Principles.

Outputs (expected results) and activities planned:

- To organise two training sessions in three affected branches for some 45 volunteers and branch directors covering the fundamental principles, disaster response, code of conduct and first aid.

The program has been finalized and the training will include the director of the branches and volunteers/youth. There is a great interest to include some areas of Psychological support in disasters and reduction of violence which affects specially children, women, and elderly, if funds are confirmed by UNICEF and other sources.

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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