

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO: FLOODS/LANDSLIDES

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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 over 183 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve 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.

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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>

The Situation

Due to the heavy floods and uncontrolled deforestation in the last several years, landslides occurred on the territory of several municipalities in Serbia in the last few weeks. The most serious situation is in village Bogdanje which is three kilometres far away from the municipality of Trstenik. Around 130 houses are damaged, and more than 200 citizens have already been evacuated. They are accommodated with the relatives at the moment, mostly in the city Trstenik. The Government of Serbia visited the place and the president of the Government of Serbia, Mr. Kostunica, promised that all families whose houses were affected by these landslides would get the new houses. Indeed, the building of the first 20 houses started on Monday (27 March).

So far, the state of emergency has been proclaimed in two municipalities: Trstenik and Lucane. In municipality of Koceljeva, as a consequence of 95 landslides, around 67 houses are damaged and 6 of them are completely destroyed. In Ljig municipality, 150 landslides were reported in the last couple of days and more than 60 local roads are cut.

The landslides occurred in the municipality Osecina. Fifty households are flooded and another thirty households are in danger, including the Red Cross building.

The level of the river Jadar has reached its maximum, so the state of emergency has been proclaimed in Loznica municipality. The underground water has flooded twenty houses, the evacuation of the cattle has started. The problem with underground waters is high in Banat and Vojvodina. The most vulnerable is Secanj municipality. 1082 houses in five villages are in danger.

The water level of several rivers in Serbia remains high. In Prijepolje municipality around 70 houses are flooded, due to the rising of underground water and mountain springs. In Novi Pazar municipality more than 300 houses are flooded at the moment and three bridges damaged. The flooding in other municipalities is mostly affecting the agriculture fields. This situation will definitely influence the crops.

On 23 March at 12.26 pm, in Mionica municipality, well-known by seismic activities, an earthquake of 4.8 degree of Richter scale occurred. According to the seismic center of Serbia, the epicentre of the earthquake was around 15 km towards south of Mionica, in area of mountain Maljen. No serious damage on the houses in this area has been reported.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The National Society is monitoring the situations and Red Cross staff in the affected areas are members of the crisis headquarters.

- On 22 March 2006, from the main disaster preparedness warehouse, 210 family hygiene parcels and three water containers (1200 litres each) were distributed to village Bogdanje.
- On 24 March 2006, 300 blankets, 100 mattresses, 100 hygiene parcels and 50 pairs of rubber boots were sent to Novi Pazar.
- On 25 March 2006, two assessment teams of Serbian Red Cross started assessment in Koceljevo, Ljig, Osecina and Loznica. The third team went to Trstenik/Bogdanje and Brus while the fourth one will assess the situation in Kragujevac.

Accommodation of the affected with host families is a temporary solution. The local Red Cross branches expressed needs for containers as a solution for the affected families. Currently, there is a need of 20 containers. According to the first estimations, based on the fact that the situation is deteriorating, the needs in containers will increase to 30-50.

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- Earthquake
- Landslides
- ▲ Floods