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EPoA Operation Update Report Hungary: Storm

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRHU007 EPoA update n° 1	GLIDE n° FL-2019-00075-HU
Date of issue: 31 October 2019	Timeframe covered by this update: 27 June 2019 – 27 October 2019
Operation start date: 27 June 2019	Operation timeframe: 5 months Expected end date: 8 December 2019
Overall operation budget: CHF 230,067	
N° of people being assisted: 7,200	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: Hungarian Red Cross (HRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: County Government Office, local municipalities, and national charity organisations (Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Málta)	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

After conducting further field assessments and consultations with local municipalities, HRC has reduced the number of houses to be assisted with shelter means (only with repair works) from 200 to 10. Since most of the rooftops have been covered by ad-hoc means, before the date of the municipal election, the slate distribution has been cancelled.

HRC provides professional assistance and materials together with other charities for 10 houses, which have not been covered yet. Hygiene and sanitation cleaning kits will be not distributed, since the people have carried out the cleaning by own means and also there is no need for the sanitary pack any longer.

HRC will still distribute locally standardized food packs to 2,400 families among the affected population as originally planned, until 9 November, which action could not be implemented before due to an unsuccessful tendering round.

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Devastating storm cells hit Eastern Hungary during the afternoon of 27 June 2019, leaving 80 settlements affected by damages caused by strong wind and heavy rainfall. According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), 2,560 rooftops (160 public and 2,400 private properties) were damaged.

The Hungarian Red Cross immediately started the coordination of the assistance with relevant authorities. The most affected settlements are Pusztadobos, Nyírkarász, and the town of Nyírmada, where 80 per cent of private homes suffered damages. Trees fell on electrical aerial cables and caused blackouts in 93 settlements leaving more than 50,000 households without electricity for two or more days. To date, electricity has been restored in all affected households. The NDMA indicates that more than 30 families (114 people) were evacuated due to life threatening structural damages, all of whom have been sheltered in municipal homes or at relatives and have not been able to return to their homes. Structural repairs have been taken care by the local governments.

In total, 2,400 households suffered damages (approx. 7,200 people) with the scale of damage on a wide spectrum. The Hungarian Government officially requested assistance from the National Society through the Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county's government office. Damages have been reported to the municipalities, who mobilized their resources accordingly. Ad hoc actions taken by local governments are on wide spectrum. Municipalities were able to redirect funds from other sources, as well as central government allocated direct support given through majors' offices. Vast majority of the damaged rooftops have been covered by these assistances or by own resources, while some 10 buildings left uncovered.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

HRC conducted two field assessments and coordination with authorities, municipalities and other charities active in the country. HRC local branch colleagues and volunteers, as well as HQ staff and the field coordinator are involved in the continuous assessment and the coordinative activities. Expertise in the team include DM, firefighting, engineering and sociology as well.

HRC identified and followed up needs in the affected settlements, and initiated procurement processes. Rétközberencs and Ajak settlements are in the focus of HRC, currently organising the rooftop coverage for 10 houses. HRC distributed 200 food parcels so far in July in Nyírmada.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Municipalities channelled non-disaster related funds into the response (e.g. rural development fund), as well as organised ad hoc actions to cover the rooftops. Central government mobilized various sources, while municipalities also provided different new and reused cover materials for the affected people. Maltese and Reformed Church Aid charities were active on different settlements, mainly with the provision of limited number of rooftop materials and non-food items. Partners experienced challenges as well due to the uncoordinated efforts of the different political actors.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

HRC carried out further consultations with the leaders of the affected settlements, exchanged information and coordinated with other charities on their action and experiences (Maltese Charity Service and Hungarian Reformed Church Aid Foundation).

HRC Staff carried out a house to house assessments in Ajak and Rétközberencs on 10 October, the assessment team included HQ colleagues (Head of DM and Disaster Preparedness Focal Point), the field coordinator and the county branch director. The assessment team included firefighting, engineering, social and psychological expertise as well. Meetings with local municipal leaders (mayors and deputies) have been conducted.

Charities carried out scattered activities related to rooftop coverage, while food distributions have been not done. Local and central government responded to the shelter needs with ad hoc means – many municipal leaders tried to find new ways to channel material and funds into their respective localities (used materials have been distributed, and some settlements were able to divert rural development funds for this issue). Despite these, the affected households experienced losses in their food stocks, as explained in the “needs analysis” part of the original EPoA. Families needed to divert their income and resources, therefore assistance with food packages are still needed and counted for. Discussions with municipal leaders and with the affected people also confirmed the need for the food packages.



Image 1 - Most of the rooftops have been already covered with temporary second-hand materials. *Photo: HRC*



Image 2 - House in Rétközberencs with partial rooftop damage. *Picture: HRC*

During the visits at 37 houses, discussions with the affected people have been initiated. Most of the rooftops have been already covered with temporary second-hand materials. However, immediate shelter needs are covered for these families, HRC will initiate advocacy activities together with other Hungarian charities to call for long-term solutions. HRC identified 10 houses still in need of support with the temporary coverage of the rooftops. These buildings have minor holes on the roofs that can be fixed with the work of HRC volunteers and by materials from partner organisations. Hungarian Reformed Church Aid received donations of tiles, but the organisation lacks in transport capacities and volunteers with professional background. HRC's rescue volunteer have their background in firefighting, rope rescue techniques and structural shoring, making them able to carry

out tasks on damaged rooftops in hights. HRC negotiated on this possible assistance with the mayors as well as with affected people.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The Hungarian Red Cross aims to assist 2,400 families (approx. 7,200 people) affected by the storm and heavy rains through the provision of 2,400 food kits. In addition, HRC also aims to provide materials with its charity partners for the temporary repair of roofs for a total of 10 houses in the villages of Rétközberencs and the town of Ajak.

Implemented strategy

The originally proposed strategy has been changed in the light of the above mentioned changes and the findings of the repeated assessment.

The Hungarian Red Cross is working to assist the affected population in coordination with the relevant authorities and other charities operating in the country. HRC's strategy is to provide assistance with means related to food assistance and sheltering. To meet the food needs of the affected population, the HRC will still distribute a total of 2,400 food rations (nationally standardized food kit) in consultation with the local authorities and other charities. Direct in-kind assistance is the preferred way presently. Goods will be procured by local commercial actors on the local markets providing certified goods according to the national legislation.

Logistics and supply chain

Local procurement procedures have been challenged due the fact that regular HRC suppliers were not able to participate in the tendering process due to the lack of logistics to transport the goods to the site in the required number and time. HRC identified a supplier for the food parcels, which supplied food packages for national governmental aid programs (EU FEAD standardized parcels).

After negotiating with IFRC ROE on the package content, HRC re-initiated the bidding process, kits are to be delivered until the first week of November.

Slate material procurement have been cancelled due the changing number of houses to be assisted. Houses with major damages have been covered by governmental and municipal means, as well as by own capacities. The 10 houses identified in Rétközberencs and Ajak are in need of partial repairs, that can be done with the assistance of other charities (Hungarian Reformed Church Aid), who provide tiles for the necessary works done by trained HRC volunteers.

Procurement lessons will be mainstreamed into lessons learned activities in order to provide opportunities for a better operational implementation in the future.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

In the light of the above mentioned circumstances, a series of consultations have been done with IFRC ROE in the past weeks. HRC will put more emphasis on the Lessons Learned Workshop as well as the Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey at the end of this operation.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People reached: 0

Male: 0

Female: 0

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with support	10	0

Output 1.1: Short, medium and long-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to 200 affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with family cleaning kits	0	0
# of families assisted with rooftop coverage	10	0

Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of Technical guidance adopted	1	0
# of volunteers mobilized	50	24

Progress towards outcomes

Needs analysis: Majority of the affected households have received temporary repairs, therefore vast majority of shelter needs have been covered. HRC currently identified 10 houses with partial repair needs, meaning holes on the rooftops covered only by simple plastic sheets.

Population to be assisted: HRC reduced the number of rooftop assistance to 10 houses (301 people: 144 male, 157 female).

Due the changes in the operational environment and the coordination with others, both, the type of distribution and number of people to be reached have been changed. HRC identified 10 houses for which tiles will be provided by a partner charity. The repairs will be done by 9 November. Transportation of the tiles have to be arranged by HRC, as well as physical assistance from the trained HRC volunteers.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 200

Male: 96

Female: 104

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families to whom food rations are distributed as in-kind assistance	2,400	200

Progress towards outcomes

Needs analysis: The storms damaged household's rooftops and affected food stocks. Many families lost vegetables, crops and fruits in their kitchen gardens. These losses underline the need for food assistance to the affected population.

Population to be assisted: HRC aims to assist households with damaged rooftops, targeting approx. 2,400 families. 7,200 people will be provided with food assistance covering 1 month of food needs

Description of the standardized FEAD parcel in Hungary, ready to be distributed:

Product	Quantity
Milk UHT 2,8%	1,000 ml
Sugar	1,000 g
Honey	250 g
Household Biscuits	1,000 g
Rice "A" quality	1,000 g
Pasta, rolled	200 g
Pasta, Hungarian squared	500 g
Pasta, spaghetti	500 g
Canned corn	340 g net
Canned peas	400 g net
Canned yellow peas	500 g
Sunflower oil	1,000 ml
liver cream, poultry	190 g
liver cream, beef	190 g
Cocoa, instant	200 g
Nut cream	400 g
Spice mixture	200 g
Canned peach	820 g / 470 g
Goulash cream	160 g
Tomato purée	140 g
Carton box	

Procurement of food parcels were challenged due the fact that regular local suppliers of HRC were unable to participate in the procurement process. HRC had to extend the procurement and approach new actors.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
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Output S1.1.4: National Society have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
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of engage volunteers and staff insured

50

27

of volunteers provided with PPE

50

0

Output S1.1.7: NS capacity to support community-based disaster risk reduction, response and preparedness is strengthened

Indicators:	Target	Actual
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of post distribution monitoring conducted

1

0

of lessons learned workshops held

1

0

Progress towards outcomes

During the initial food parcel distribution in Nyírmada in July, 27 local volunteers, staff and HQ staff have been involved.

IFRC and HRC hold a conference call on 24 October, discussing the importance of LL and BSS activities, which will be implemented later in November.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Output S3.1.1: HRC's operations are known by public audiences and public is aware of the donation campaign

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with the donation campaign on social media	N/A	10,463 reached, 812 engagements
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>In addition to the general communication activities, an advocacy element has been developed in connection with this operation. Due the changes in weather patterns and the low resilience of the vulnerable communities, HRC continue to advocate for a structured national action in order to prevent the occurrence of such disasters in the future. HRC organised two coordination meetings with other charities, and participants agreed for joint advocacy activities on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured and standardized approach on how local and national governments assist affected population (referring to the various approaches we experienced during the current and previous operations) • Including rooftop renovation activities for deprived households into rural development programmes • Investigating and developing opportunities for fair insurance schemes or compulsory disaster insurance. <p>HRC cooperates on the above-mentioned issues with other charities as well as universities.</p>		



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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 (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian 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:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.