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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Czech Republic: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRCZ002
GLIDE n° FL-2013-000068-CZE
19 June 2013**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of unearmarked 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.

165,608 CHF has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Czech Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 3,400 beneficiaries (850 households). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Heavy rains brought about the rise of water levels in the Labe and Vltava rivers crossing from the south to the north of the Czech Republic. The western regions of the country, called Bohemia, where the capital city of Prague also belongs, are among those heavily affected. The unceasing increase in water levels between 1st June and 7th June 2013 caused the waters to spill out of the river beds in many places and flooded the nearby houses and other buildings and the agricultural lands. It is estimated that more than 430,000 households (approximately 1,300,000 people) have been affected by the floods, with more than 19,000 people having been evacuated. The Czech Government has estimated the value of the material damages of the recent floods at 800 million Euros.



The Czech Red Cross Society distributed urgently needed materials after the floods in Bohemia in June 2013.
Photo: Czech Red Cross

The most affected municipalities in Bohemia (the western areas of the Czech Republic) are the following ones: **Prague and its surroundings** (Lahovičky, Radotín), **Middle Bohemia** (Černošice, Dolany; region of Mělník – Mělník, Hořín, Brozánky, Chvatěruby, Lužec nad Vltavou, Dolní Beřkovice, Nová Ves), **North-West Bohemia** (region of Litoměřice – Litoměřice, Křešice, Terezín, Nové Kopisty, České Kopisty; region of Ústí nad Labem – Ústí nad Labem; region of Děčín – Děčín, Hřensko, Dobkovice, Jiřkov, Malšovice, Choratice, Těchlovice), **East Bohemia** (region of Trutnov – Dolní Olešnice, Horní Olešnice, Suchovršice, Havlovice, Hostinné, Rudník, Lampertice, Janké Lázně, Horní Maršov, Mostek, Vlčice, Velký Vřešřov), **South Bohemia** (region of České Budějovice - Bavorov, Vodňany, Hluboká nad Vltavou, Bechyně, Veselí nad Lužnicí, Protivín, Putim).

The Czech Red Cross has identified 3,400 beneficiaries, elderly people and socially handicapped residents, who are in an absolute need of assistance by lending them dryers for their houses after the water has receded and by organizing for them the access to clean water by cleaning and disinfecting their wells, 1,500 in number.

The majority of the 19,000 evacuated people in different parts of the Czech Republic have started returning to their homes as the water levels are receding. Most of them were staying with relatives while some others have been put up in collective accommodation facilities such as social centres and schools.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 18th September 2013; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 18th December 2013).

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

The situation

Intensive rainfalls in the whole area of the Czech Republic caused a rapid increase of the river levels. During the night of 1st June 2013, small rivers first and also the large rivers later, started to overflow. A top level (Level Three) flood alert was announced in Pilsen Region, South-Bohemian Region, Middle-Bohemian Region, and Královéhradecký Region.

The Czech Government declared a state of emergency from 21.00 hours local time on 2nd June 2013 for seven regions (South-Bohemian, Pilsen, Middle-Bohemian, Liberecký, Královéhradecký, Ústecký, Prague) which make up half of the territory of the Czech Republic. The action to control the floods is coordinated by the Minister of Interior and the Central Crisis Headquarters¹. The rainfall and flooding had reportedly been the heaviest in decades. The authorities warned that despite of the decrease of water levels it will take at least 5-6 days before levels go back to normal. When the relief and evacuation activities have been finalised, it will take several days for the situation to normalise even after the floods recede.

Middle-Bohemian Region: There are Level Three flood alerts on the rivers of Vltava, Berounka, Labe and Sazava. All those rivers have already peaked in this area and decreasing water levels can be expected. But the recession of the water is very slow. There are about 80 villages affected by the floods in this region. The evacuated people are returning to their homes. The clean-up operations have begun in the whole region. Crisis staff are monitoring the situation, and citizens are informed about the situation on emergency telephone numbers.

Prague: The Vltava River and the Berounka River culminated on 4th June and the water level is decreasing now. But there is still a Level Three flood alert due to the soaking of the dikes since there are precipitations forecasted for next week. Fire Rescue Service units are intervening and pumping with high capacity pumps. Some of the Prague Underground Railway stations have been opened.

South Bohemian Region: A Level Three flood alert is still in force on 10 stations and 8 rivers. A state of emergency is announced for 13 regions (97 villages are affected). Currently the activities are focused on clean-up operations. In the area, there are problems with potable water supplies. Potable water distribution is organized in stricken areas.

Pilsen Region: A Level Three flood alert is still in force for the region. The water level on Berounka River is decreasing in all areas. There are about 110 villages affected by the floods. The water purification plant is out of order. Citizens are supplied with potable water.

Královéhradecký Region: 46 villages are affected by the floods. The monitoring of the situation, water pumping, disposal of dead animals, ensuring electric power and potable water supplies and other emergency activities are still taking place. Warning and information services are still running. The situation is stabilized.

The Czech Government has estimated the value of the material damages of the recent floods at 800 million Euros.

Coordination and partnerships

Immediately after news about the first emergencies fire rescue units were deployed, including units of the Integrated Rescue System. From 8.00 hours on 2nd June 2013 there has been a central coordination of all rescue and clean-up operations, coordinated by the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic through its General Directorate of Fire and Rescue Service which fulfils and coordinates the needs of the disaster-stricken regions. The Czech Red Cross as a member of the Integrated Rescue System of the country deployed its staff and volunteers throughout 35 branches.

There are regular meetings of the members of the Integrated Rescue System, and the Czech Red Cross takes an active part in the meetings and shares the information collected. Also, the staff and volunteers of the Czech Red Cross are actively contributing to the floods-related activities by conducting assessments, planning, and organizing distributions.

¹ The information was received from <http://www.hzscr.cz/clanek/flood-situation-in-the-czech-republic.aspx>

The joint monitoring and assessment of the needs have been conducted by the Czech Red Cross in coordination with such organizations as ADRA, Caritas and the local NGO "People in Need". Also, there is an effective communication established with the local municipalities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the very first days of the emergency the Czech RC has been involved in the monitoring and the assessment of the situation. Psychological and material support has been provided by the Czech Red Cross throughout 35 branches in the western regions of the country. The Czech National Society deployed more than 400 staff and volunteers so as to support the local flood-preventing measures and distribute items of first necessity. The overall response of the National Society is coordinated by the Red Cross Program Department at HQs in Prague.

The Czech Red Cross has launched a national fundraising campaign to support the victims of the floods, reaching out to the general public and the corporate sector through the media and its own web-page. There is a technical possibility to donate to the Czech Red Cross also through an assigned SMS number. There has been a positive response from the big companies operating in the country which started to provide in-kind donations to the Czech Red Cross. For this reason, the National Society has rented some additional warehouse space in the capital city, and further five warehouses are available in the affected region. Most of the emergency stocks which had been available on regional and local level had been distributed in the early days.

So far, the NS has reached more than 4,000 people with different services including psychological support, the distribution of relief items and actual participation in the evacuation. There are ongoing relief distribution activities in different regions, including the capital city of Prague and the surrounding regions. In case of need, and as the member of the National Integrated Rescue System, the Czech RC has the possibility to access those humanitarian emergency items which are available at the warehouses of the Ministry of Interior.

The IFRC Europe Zone Office has been in permanent contact with the Czech Red Cross Society since the onset of the extreme floods, and the Europe Zone Disaster Management Coordinator has been rendering professional support to the planning of the emergency actions. A senior member of the Europe Zone Office was deployed to Prague on a mission in order to participate in the needs assessment and to discuss the scope of the DREF operation.

The needs

The needs of the affected population are mainly for non-food items such as disinfectants, hygiene kits, blankets, rubber boots etc. The Czech National Society has already distributed most of its stocks available in their warehouses and now they are focusing on the distribution of items received as in-kind donation from the public and private sectors. Therefore any additional items for distribution in the future are to be procured from their own resources, in coordination with other partners.

There are more than 19,000 people evacuated in different parts of the Czech Republic. Those people have started returning to their homes. The majority of them were staying with relatives, while others were sheltered in collective accommodation such as social centres and schools.

The Czech Red Cross has identified **850 households (3,400 beneficiaries)** in the regions of Prague and its surroundings, Middle Bohemia, North-West Bohemia, East Bohemia and South Bohemia who require special assistance. The selection criteria targeted elderly people, on the one hand, and socially handicapped people in poverty, on the other, who would not be able to cope with the situation by themselves.

Based on the outcome of the coordination meeting, and the location and capacities of its branches, the Czech Red Cross will provide immediate and tailored support to **450 households (1,800 beneficiaries)**, who will be assisted with the improvement of access to clean water through water purification and the cleaning of around 1,500 contaminated wells, whereas **400 households (1,600 beneficiaries)** will be assisted through the lending of drying machines.

The proposed operation

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of access to safe water to 450 households (1,800 beneficiaries).

Output: 450 households (1,800 beneficiaries) will be assisted with access to safe water.

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid assessment of water and sanitation emergency needs and available capacities in close coordination with the local authorities;
- Implement the well-cleaning activities by Red Cross local branches in close coordination with local municipalities;
- Set up a cash distribution procedure;
- Deliver the resources to the residents to pay for the well-cleaning by a specialized company;
- Monitoring of the implementation with the involvement of staff and volunteers.

This assistance will be provided in the following regions:

Regions and villages to be provided with assistance		
Middle Bohemia	North-West Bohemia	South Bohemia
Černošice	Region of Litoměřice – Litoměřice	Region of České Budějovice – Bavorov
Dolany	Křešice	Vodňany
Region of Mělník – Mělník	Terezín	Hluboká nad Vltavou
Hořín	Nové Kopisty	Bechyně
Brozánky	České Kopisty	Veselí nad Lužnicí
Chvatěruby	Region of Ústí nad Labem – Ústí nad Labem	Protivín
Lužec nad Vltavou	Region of Děčín – Děčín	Putim
Dolní Beřkovice	Hřensko	
Nová Ves	Dobkovice	
	Malšovice	
	Choratice	
	Těchlovice	

Shelter

Outcome: 400 households (1,600 beneficiaries) will be assisted with drying machines to resume their normal lives when returning to their houses.

Output: 400 households (1,600 beneficiaries) will be assisted with drying machines.

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid assessment in close coordination with the local authorities;
Procurement and distribution of 40 drying machines;
- The drying machines will be lent to each household under a rotation scheme;
- Monitoring of the implementation with the involvement of staff and volunteers.

This assistance will be provided in these regions:

Regions and villages to be provided with assistance		
Middle Bohemia	North-West Bohemia	South Bohemia
Černošice	Region of Litoměřice – Litoměřice	Region of České Budějovice – Bavorov
Dolany	Křešice	Vodňany
Region of Mělník – Mělník	Terezín	Hluboká nad Vltavou
Hořín	Nové Kopisty	Bechyně
Brozánky	České Kopisty	Veselí nad Lužnicí
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Dolní Beřkovice	Hřensko	
Nová Ves	Dobkovice	
	Malšovice	
	Choratice	
	Těchlovice	

The activities will be coordinated with, and supported by, all state and non-state actors that are operating in the affected area.

The drying machine will be shared under a rotation scheme between the different households. The machines will be returned to the Czech RC after use so that they can be used in future similar emergencies.

The Czech Red Cross Headquarters will, in close cooperation with IFRC Europe Zone Office, monitor the progress of the operation and provide the necessary technical expertise. Weekly operation updates will be sent to the IFRC Europe Zone Office. The visibility of the work of the Red Cross staff and volunteers will be ensured during the operation through local and international media.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Click here

1. Click [here](#) to see the budget of the DREF operation
2. Click [here](#) to see the map of the affected areas
3. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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.

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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.

DREF OPERATION

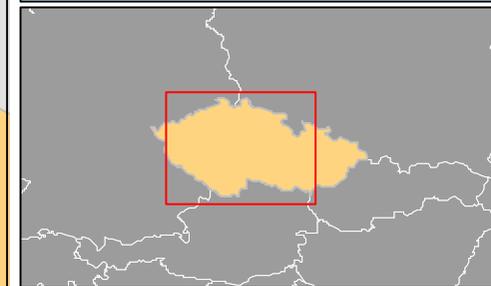
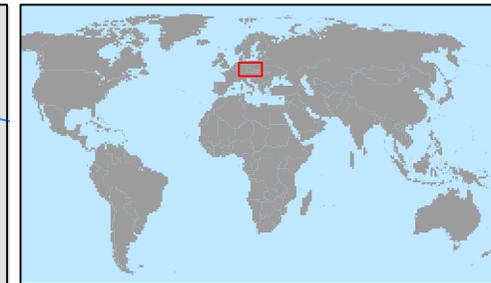
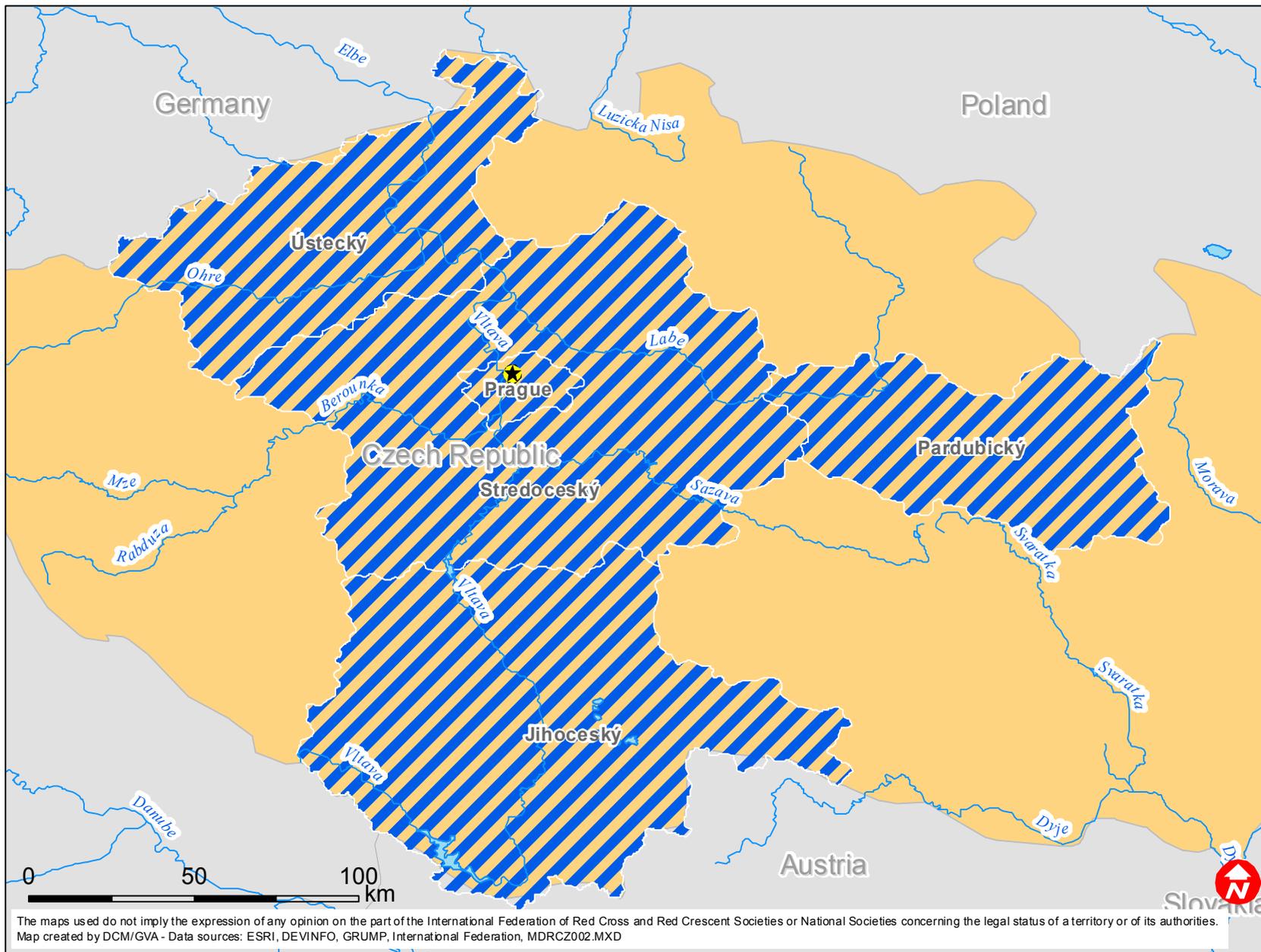
14/06/2013

MDRCZ002 Floods in the Czech Republic

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	99,000
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	99,000
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	40,000
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	40,000
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	3,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	3,000
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	3,300
Volunteers	6,000
Total PERSONNEL	9,300
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	3,000
Information & Public Relations	
Office Costs	1,200
Communications	
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
Shared Office and Services Costs	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	4,200
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	10,108
Total INDIRECT COSTS	10,108
TOTAL BUDGET	165,608



Czech Republic: Floods



 Affected regions