

DREF final report Czech Republic: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRCZ002 GLIDE n° FL-2013-000068-CZE 17 January 2014

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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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 165,608 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 19 June 2013 to support the Czech Red Cross (CzRC) Society in delivering assistance to people affected by floods in the central parts, also called Bohemia, of the Czech Republic.

On the basis of the dangerous floods which affected the territory of Bohemia in the Czech Republic, 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, were the worst affected ones. More than 430,000 households (approximately 1,300,000 people) were affected by the floods. A total of 26,438 people were evacuated and 618 people rescued. The floods have claimed 15 lives and resulted in at least 75 landslides.



Czech Red Cross branch representative handing out cash support for cleaning the wells.
Photo: Czech Red Cross

214 various road and rail sections had to be closed temporarily. The Czech authorities estimated the total direct damage at EUR 637 million.

The Czech Red Cross operation was focused on follow-up humanitarian assistance, such as the cleaning of wells and the drying of homes for the population in places affected by the floods. After the initial assessment gave the number of Red Cross beneficiaries at 3,400 in 850 households, the final number of the people having been assisted by the Czech Red Cross with the DREF support was 3,190 beneficiaries: 1,170 people in 312 households, one senior citizen home with 20 residents and two clinics with a total of 2,000 patients. The reason of this outcome was the fact that the volume of the humanitarian support provided by the Integrated Rescue System of the Czech Republic and the municipality-level authorities was much larger than expected.

Out of the allocation of CHF 165,608, 41 per cent or CHF 67,375 has been replenished by Mondelez International and Hewlett Packard. The major multilateral donors and partners of the DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian Governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian Government, the Danish Red Cross and the Danish Government, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian Governments, the Japanese Red

Cross Society, the Luxembourg Government, the Monaco Red Cross and the Monaco Government, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Netherlands Government, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Norwegian Government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and the Swedish Government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations.

On behalf of the Czech Red Cross Society, the IFRC would like to extend their thanks to all donors and partners for their generous contributions.

From the allocation of CHF 165,608 there is a final balance of CHF 42,494, which will be returned to the DREF account. The unused part of the budget can be explained by the fact that the volume of the humanitarian support provided by the Integrated Rescue System of the Czech Republic and the municipality-level authorities was much larger than expected.

[<click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Intensive rainfalls in the whole area of the Czech Republic caused a rapid increase of the river levels. During the night of 1 June 2013, first small rivers first and later also the larger ones, started to overflow. A top level flood alert was announced for the Pilsen Region, the South-Bohemian Region, the Middle-Bohemian Region, and the Královéhradecký Region. On 2 June 2013 the Czech Government declared a state of emergency for seven regions (South-Bohemian, Pilsen, Middle-Bohemian, Liberecký, Královéhradecký, Ustecký, and Prague) which made up half of the territory of the Czech Republic. The action to control the floods was coordinated by the Ministry of Interior and the Central Crisis Headquarters.

More than 430,000 households (approximately 1,300,000 people) were affected by the floods. A total of 26,438 people were evacuated and 618 people rescued. The floods have claimed 15 lives and resulted in at least 75 landslides. 214 various road and rail sections had to be closed temporarily. The Czech authorities estimated the total direct damage at EUR 637 million. The rainfall and flooding that occurred were reportedly the heaviest in decades. When the relief and evacuation activities were finalised, it took several days for the situation to get normalised even after the floods receded.

Coordination and partnerships

The damage assessment and needs analysis of the affected people was conducted by the Czech Red Cross in cooperation with several NGOs, such as Adra, Diaconia, Caritas and People in Need. The Czech Red Cross and all NGOs involved in providing the aid were in permanent contact with one other and held regular meetings where the collected information was shared. In addition to this, the local branches of the Czech Red Cross regularly cooperated with the members of the Integrated Rescue System of the Czech Republic and the state authorities as well as with the mayors of the affected towns and municipalities.

Immediately after news about the first emergencies fire rescue units were deployed, including units of the Integrated Rescue System. There was 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-fighting 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 were regular meetings of the members of the Integrated Rescue System, and the Czech Red Cross took an active part in the meetings and shared the information collected. Also, the staff and volunteers of the Czech Red Cross were actively contributing to the floods-related activities by conducting assessments, planning, and organizing distributions.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the very first days of the emergency, the Czech RC was involved in the monitoring and the assessment of the situation. Psychological and material support was 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 was coordinated by the Red Cross Program Department at HQs in Prague. The local branches of the Red Cross even advertised the available forms of support in the local press and other media channels.

The Czech Red Cross also 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 was a positive response from the business sector which started to provide in-kind donations to the Czech

Red Cross. For this reason, the National Society rented some additional warehouse space in the capital city, and further five warehouses were made 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. Subsequently, when the DREF operation was launched, the Czech Red Cross started to organize the follow-up humanitarian aid with the DREF support, focusing on the cleaning of contaminated wells and the lending of drying machines. The follow-up recovery programmes were implemented in the worst affected areas of Bohemia, i.e. Middle Bohemia, North-West Bohemia and South Bohemia.

While the initial assessment gave the number of beneficiaries at 3,400 in 850 households, the final number of the people having been assisted by the Czech Red Cross was 3,190 beneficiaries: 1,170 people in 312 households, one senior citizen home with 20 residents and two clinics with a total of 2,000 patients. The reason of this outcome was the fact that the volume of the humanitarian support provided by the Integrated Rescue System of the Czech Republic and the municipality-level authorities was much larger than expected. The unspent funds will be returned to the DREF account.

Assistance via the DREF operation was provided in the below mentioned regions.

Regions and villages where assistance was provided		
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	

In addition to continuous technical disaster management support, the IFRC Europe Zone Office also assisted the DREF Operation by the mission of a senior staff member to Prague during the preparations for developing the emergency plan of action and by sending out a financial expert at the end the operation for financial reporting purposes.

Achievements against outcomes

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.

Impact:

The final assessment of the situation in the affected regions, conducted by the Czech Red Cross, resulted in an output where the total number of the affected people receiving this kind of support amounted to 295 households (931 people).

The project recorded a great social and media response especially in Middle and South Bohemia, i.e. in the region of Prague and its surroundings, Písek, Tábor and Prachatice. CzRC staff, together with the volunteers, were maintaining an active and regular contact with representatives of the local municipalities of the towns and villages affected by the floods. The staff was regularly paying personal visits to local authorities so as to inform them about the DREF operation and the provided services /aid mainly in the most affected regions.

Emergency 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.

Impact:

According to the final assessment of the situation in the affected regions, conducted by the Czech Red Cross, the total number of the affected people receiving this kind of support reached 57 households with 239 people, one senior citizen home with 20 residents and two clinics with a total of 2,000 patients.

The visibility of Red Cross staff and volunteers was adequately ensured through the use of Red Cross emblems. Moreover, the Czech Red Cross had a fair press coverage via the major media channels, such as the Czech State TV and private TV channels, the Czech State Radio and commercial radio channels, newspapers and magazines. A great number of live interviews were given by Czech Red Cross staff in the field.

Challenges

There was a certain degree of duplication of efforts around the drying machines. Most of the affected residents used the drying machines lent by the municipalities or the Fire-fighting Forces of the Czech Republic. After the closure of the DREF operation, Red Cross-owned drying machines were collected from the users and transported to the warehouses of the Czech Red Cross to be used during eventual future operations by the beneficiaries.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Czech Red Cross:** Olga Šiková, Programme Department;
phone: +420 777 144 281, email: sikova.olga@cervenykriz.eu
- **IFRC Europe Zone:** Alberto Monguzzi, Disaster Management Coordinator;
phone: +36 1 888 4500; email: alberto.monguzzi@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support;
phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org

DREF history:

This DREF was initially allocated on 19 June 2013 for CHF 165,608 to assist 3,400 beneficiaries (850 households).



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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 (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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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.

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRCZ002 - Czech Republic - Floods

Timeframe: 18 Jun 13 to 18 Oct 13

Appeal Launch Date: 18 Jun 13

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2013/6-12	Programme	MDRCZ002
Budget Timeframe	2013/6-10	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		165,608				165,608	
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		165,608				165,608	
C4. Other Income		165,608				165,608	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		165,608				165,608	
D. Total Funding = B + C		165,608				165,608	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance		0				0	
C. Income		165,608				165,608	
E. Expenditure		-123,114				-123,114	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		42,494				42,494	

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
	Budget	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			165,608			165,608		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			103,822			103,822	-103,822	
Other Supplies & Services	99,000						99,000	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	99,000		103,822			103,822	-4,822	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Others Machinery & Equipment	40,000						40,000	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	40,000						40,000	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	3,000						3,000	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	3,000						3,000	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	3,300		3,300			3,300	0	
Volunteers	6,000		6,000			6,000	0	
Total Personnel	9,300		9,300			9,300	0	
General Expenditure								
Travel	3,000		1,274			1,274	1,726	
Office Costs	1,200		1,200			1,200	0	
Financial Charges			4			4	-4	
Total General Expenditure	4,200		2,478			2,478	1,722	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	10,108		7,514			7,514	2,593	
Total Indirect Costs	10,108		7,514			7,514	2,593	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	165,608		123,114			123,114	42,493	
VARIANCE (C - D)			42,493			42,493		

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IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Disaster response	165,608	0	165,608	165,608	123,114	42,494	
Subtotal BL2	165,608	0	165,608	165,608	123,114	42,494	
GRAND TOTAL	165,608	0	165,608	165,608	123,114	42,494	