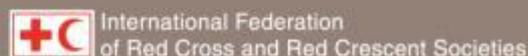


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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Extreme Winter Condition



DREF Operation n° MDRMK003	Glide n° CW-2014-000171-MKD
Date of issue: 15 January 2015	Expected timeframe: 2 months 14 January – 14 March 2015 Expected end date: 14 March 2015
DREF allocated: CHF 60,638	
Number of people affected: 7,000	Number of people to be assisted: 1,900
Host National Society presence (number of volunteers, staff, branches): 207 volunteers, 23 staff	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: N/A	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: FYRoM Crisis Management Centre, local self-government units	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 28 December 2014, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was hit by heavy snowfalls that resulted in snow drifts, two meters high in some places, limiting the movement of all types of vehicles on many highways and mountain corridors, cutting the communication with a number of mountain villages. The electricity lines were also cut in some of the regions, the most affected ones being Ohrid, Struga, Debar, Kichevo, Skopje, and Makedonski Brod. For more than ten hours about 150 vehicles with 500 drivers and passengers were stranded on the Skopje – Ohrid highway due to the heavy snowfall.

The shortage of electricity lasted almost for week and somewhere more in a number of multiple municipalities such as Ohrid, Debarca, Struga, Vevcani, Debar, Centar Zhupa, Mavrovo and Rostushalasted. Although the Energy Supply Company (EVN Macedonia) immediately deployed workers to repair the network, which was seriously damaged, the circumstances did not allow for a fast recovery of the network. The massive snow, the cold weather and the winds with a force of approximately 100 km per hour in the mountain area hampered the quick restoration of the infrastructure.

Due to the critical conditions, the Macedonian Red Cross conducted a relief operation for the most vulnerable population in those areas in cooperation with the local branches and state authorities which are part of the System for Crisis Management

No.	Region	Affected villages	Affected people
1.	Ohrid (and Debarca)	Velmej, Vrezhani, Leskovec, Sirula, Kuratica, Prentov most, Mramorec, Turje, Ozdoleni i Soshani, Vrbjani, etc.	1,000
2.	Struga	Mislodezhda, Selci, Gorna Belica, Dolna Belica, Mali Vlaj, Radozhda, Delogozhda, Koroshishta, Dolno Tateshi, Dzepin, Borovec, Priosvjani, Zbzhdi, Lokov, Rzanovo, Burinec, etc.	3,000
3.	Debar-Gostivar (Centar Zhupa and Mavrovo Rostusha)	Dzepiste, Otoshani, Dolno i Gorno Kosovrasti, Mogorche, Osoj, Gari, Kodzadzik, etc	3,000
4.	Skopje	Golievo, Tanusevci, Malino Maalo	700
5.	Makedonski Brod	Krusje, Creshevo, Tomino selo, Benche, Greshnica, Slatina, Inche, Kalugerec, Topolnica, etc.	500
6.	Kicevo	Ivanciste, Popovec, Malkovec, Klenovec, G. Dusegubica, D. Dusegubica	500
7.	Homeless in Skopje	Station for homeless people in Skopje	100 (registered)

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

In the past years, the Macedonian Red Cross has been actively engaged in strengthening the capacities on national and especially on local level in cooperation with the local and national stakeholders, with special priority to community resilience. During the years, the National Society conducted various theoretical and practical simulation exercises in the country, and, as a result, there are trained teams for disaster response on the local level.

It is important to emphasize the role of the Red Cross Branch of Ohrid, where beside the disaster response team they also have a mountain rescue team which was deployed and engaged in search and rescue/recovery operations in the mountains. Their efforts, knowledge and experience were a great asset in this operation.

The Macedonian Red Cross, with all its experience, positioned itself once again as a crucial partner in the National System for Crisis Management, and there is no training, exercise, operation or similar event to be conducted without the presence of the National Society.

Macedonian Red Cross activities

Reacting to the snow wave that struck the biggest part of the country, the Crisis Management Headquarters of the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia held an emergency meeting on 29 December 2014, which was also attended by the Secretary General of the Macedonian Red Cross, Sait Saiti, PhD. The meeting served to define the activities of each institution in the state structures in compliance with the standard operational procedures in case of disaster response.

The complete available machinery and means of transport have been used for clearing the roads, and, as first priorities, the responsible authorities started the repair of the electricity pylons and the evacuation of the older people that found themselves blocked in the remote mountain villages.

The Macedonian Red Cross, as a member of the Crisis Management Headquarters, is actively involved in the rescue operation and is regularly updated with new information about the situation and is requested to solve some urgent challenges.

In the crisis-hit regions the Macedonian Red Cross branches have mobilized their emergency response teams, and they were in the field with the representatives of the state institutions helping them to evacuate the residents.

The Red Cross branches of Debar, Ohrid, Struga, Kichevo, Makedonski Brod and the City Red Cross of Skopje have already distributed in the remote mountain villages 487 food parcels (1 parcel per family), 487 hygiene parcels (1 parcel per family, 1,300 blankets (1 blanket per person knowing that the number of family members varies between 2-3) and 2 tons of warm clothes with their own field vehicles.

The car drivers and passengers that had been stranded for more than ten hours on the highway Kichevo-Ohrid were assisted by the Red Cross with 500 blankets. The distribution was done by the local teams for disaster response.

The City Red Cross of Skopje opened a station for homeless people in the capital, which is working around the clock providing the following services for the homeless people:

- Accommodation for homeless people in the station, hygiene services, and laundry / supply of clothes;
- Patrol team with a medical vehicle to transport homeless people;
- Warm meals;
- Primary health care;
- Operation of a telephone help line, +389 70/317-803 on which citizens can report homeless people exposed to danger.



Relief operation in a village. Photo: Macedonian Red Cross



Where cars could not pass, horses and donkeys were used for relief transport. Photo: Macedonian Red Cross

Movement Coordination

After the onset of the disaster, the Macedonian Red Cross immediately prepared and shared an information bulletin, which was published on the IFRC website.¹

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

After the onset of the disaster, the National System for Crisis Management was immediately called and started to coordinate the activities between the different actors. The Public Enterprise for Road Maintenance "Makedonija Pat", the Electricity Company EVN, along with private contracted companies with heavy machinery for cleaning roads, were deployed on the same day to ensure that the main and local roads are clean and safe, as well as to ensure that there is enough electrical supply for the affected population. Due to the circumstances, those activities were challenging and several days were needed for them to overcome them. Additionally the Directorate for Rescue and Protection also mobilized its teams and deployed them to additionally assist the companies not only in cleaning the roads, but also, where necessary, to provide safe evacuation for the persons in need in cooperation with the Red Cross volunteers and the Ministry of Interior. During the process the Centre for Crisis Management was collecting timely information and shared that with the involved parties.

The assistance of the Army was considered as an option, but there wasn't any need for their mobilization.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Macedonian Red Cross HQ immediately started to coordinate the activities with the local branches, after the alarm for heavy snow and extreme low temperatures. In coordination with the City Red Cross branch of Skopje, the shelter for homeless people was opened around the clock, "24/7", with volunteers present at all times. Mobile teams were visiting the known places where the registered homeless persons would usually stay, and also advertised the help phone lines in the media, so the public can also report the location of homeless persons in immediate need or danger.

The Red Cross branches which are part of the local System for crisis management immediately started to assess the situation in cooperation with the local authorities and other stakeholders. They were in contact with the local and community authorities in order to understand their needs. The activities were quite diverse from emergency evacuation, up to delivering supplies. Much of the information was gathered directly from the crisis management centres where the local authorities were filing their requests for the support of the most vulnerable population.

Although there were thousands of citizens stranded, the Red Cross put an accent on the most vulnerable people such as elderly people that live alone, families with low income, families with small children, families that have members with disabilities, as well as families with sick members in need of medical care.

¹ The Information Bulletin can be accessed [here](#).

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

To meet the immediate needs of the most vulnerable people (487 families or 1,300 persons) as well as the 500 passengers who were stranded on the Kicevo-Ohrid road and some 100 homeless people, affected by the extreme condition, through the provision of urgent assistance and distribution of food and non-food items.

Proposed strategy

In the aftermath of the emergency situation, the Macedonian Red Cross used up its emergency stocks, which consisted of food and hygiene parcels, blankets and warm clothes.

Within this DREF allocation, the Macedonian Red Cross would replenish the delivered aid, so that it can be again well prepared to respond timely and efficiently in the future as well.

The replenished relief items will include the following:

- food parcels;
- hygiene parcels;
- blankets;
- winter jackets.

Contents of a food parcel	Quantity
Wheat flour type 400	6 kg.
Sugar	2 kg.
Cooking oil	4 l.
Salt	2 kg.
Rice	2 kg.
Canned fish	8 cans
Pasta	4 packs

Contents of a hygiene parcel	Quantity
Detergent for machine laundering	3 packs of 0.5 kg (1.5 kg)
Detergent for hand laundering	2 packs of 0.5 kg (1 kg)
Soap	2 pieces
Shampoo	0.5 l
Toothpaste	2
Toothbrush	2
Detergent for dishwashing	0.5 l
Sponge for dishwashing	1 piece
Toilet paper	4 rolls

Operational support services

Human resources

207 volunteers were engaged in this operation across the territory of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with additional 3 staff from HQ and 20 staff from local branches. All volunteers were covered by insurance for the relief operations.

Logistics and supply chain

After the received alarm of extreme weather conditions the HQ prepared its transport and cross-country vehicles with winter equipment, and new winter tyres were procured for one of the vehicles. The logistics department was on standby in a "24/7" system to assure that the vehicles with drivers can be deployed at a short notice with the necessary aid.

For the procurement, offers will be collected from at least three providers, and the process will be performed through the operating procurement commission of the Macedonian Red Cross.

Information technologies (IT)

Besides its own wireless telecom system, the Macedonian Red Cross mostly used landlines and cellular phones for communication with the volunteers as well as with the branches and the other stakeholders.

Media & Communications

The national and local media were mostly on the scene with Macedonian Red Cross teams, and they covered the Red Cross activities with texts, videos and pictures in a fair and comprehensive manner.

Security

Every step during the operation was conducted after the receipt of confirmation from the authorities and after a thorough briefing of the personnel involved. Although in such extreme conditions there is always a higher risk for any injuries or accidents to occur, the good coordination and timely communication with the authorities helped avoid any unexpected incident.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

The Macedonian Red Cross HQ is constantly monitoring the conducted activities by providing a round-the-clock support for the staff and volunteers from the branches.

At the end of the operation, a two-day workshop is planned together with the authorities, for a “lessons learned” workshop and for an even better communication in the National System for Crisis Management.

Narrative and financial reports will be produced according to the IFRC’s requirements. This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will therefore be completed by 14 March 2015; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, by 14 June 2015.



Click here

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

Contact information

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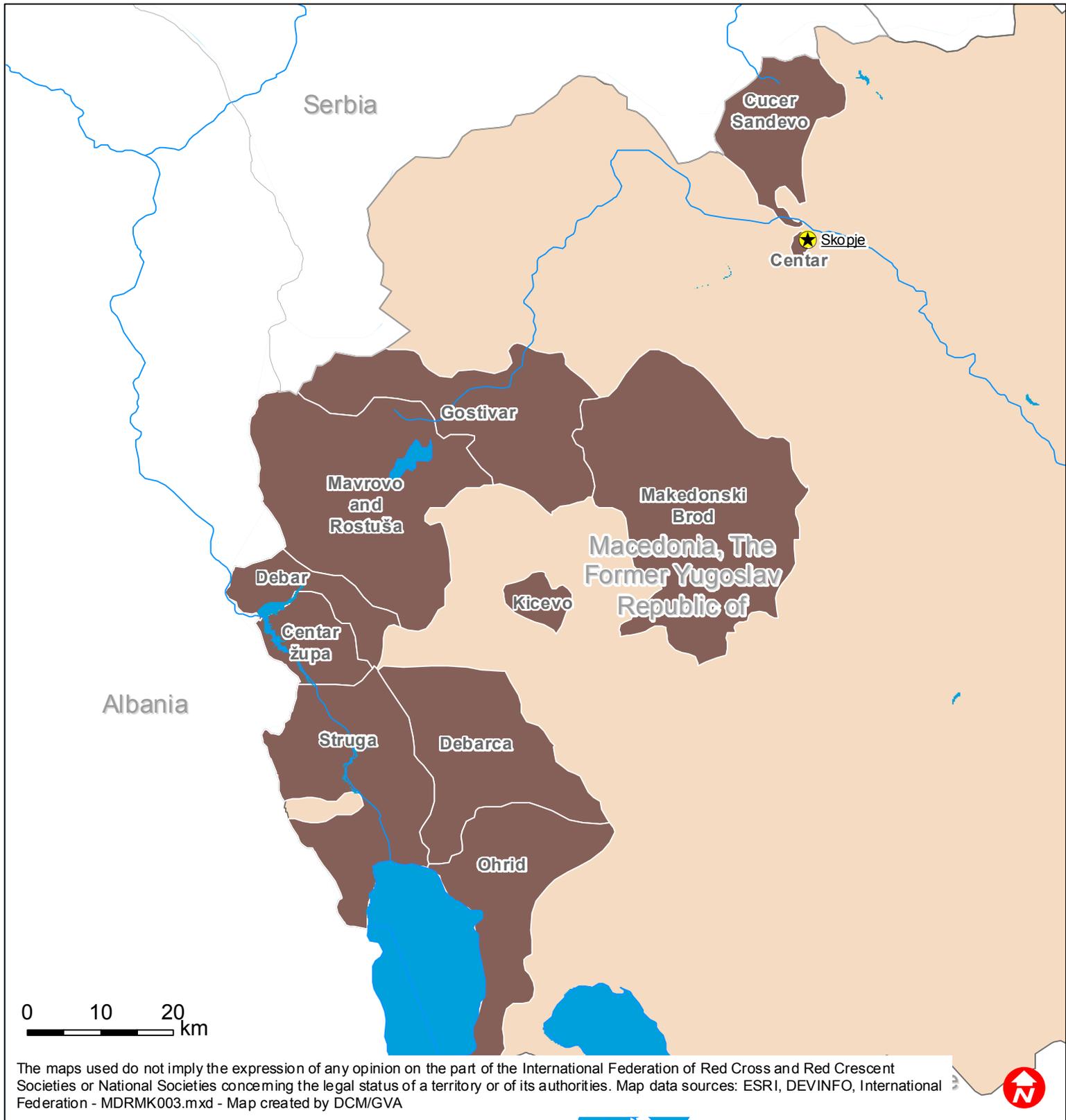
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Macedonia Extreme Winter Conditions

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	24,100
Food	13,300
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	7,943
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	45,343
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machiney & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Dsitribution & Monitoring	1,056
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,555
Logistics Services	330
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	3,941
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	3,168
Volunteers	311
Total PERSONNEL	3,479
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	3,875
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	3,875
Travel	
Information & Public Relations	
Office Costs	
Communications	300
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	300
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	3,701
Total INDIRECT COSTS	3,701
TOTAL BUDGET	60,638



Macedonia: Extreme winter conditions



 Most affected regions