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Emergency Appeal operations update Serbia: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRRS009	GLIDE n° FF-2014-000059-SRB
Operations update n° 4 Date of issue: 28 May 2015	Timeframe covered by this update: 23 March 2015 – 22 May 2015
Emergency operation start date: 13 May 2014	Timeframe: 14 months (extended by 5 months until 31 July 2015)
Appeal budget: CHF 3,842,805	Appeal coverage: 87 %
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 290,926	
Number of people being assisted: 49,600 people or 12,400 families	
Host National Society presence: 60,000 volunteers, 865 staff, 27 branches	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (both bilaterally and multilaterally): ICRC, American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Belarus Red Cross, Bulgarian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Croatian Red Cross, Czech Red Cross, Cyprus Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Hellenic Red Cross, Hungarian Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Iranian Red Crescent, Irish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Lithuanian Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross, Montenegro Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Romanian Red Cross, Russian Red Cross, Slovak Red Cross, Slovenian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: the respective Governments of Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain; DG ECHO, BP British Petroleum, Charities Aid Foundation, EMC Corporation, Hewlett Packard Co. Foundation, Julius Blum GmbH, C&A Foundation, UPS, Western Union Foundation, WHO VERF.	

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 3,842,805 to enable the Secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the Red Cross of Serbia in delivering assistance to some 12,400 flood-affected families (49,600 people). The Red Cross of Serbia (RCS) continues to support the ongoing recovery activities chiefly in the form of unconditional cash payments.

As far as the National Society's capacity building component is concerned under the present Emergency Appeal, the planned procurements are being carried out in accordance with the National Society's internal regulations and the pertaining external legal context. Due to the complex procurement procedures and some technical delay with the related finances, the current implementation timeframe is hereby extended until 31 July 2015.



Registration for unconditional cash payments after the floods.
Photo: Red Cross of Serbia.

Summary:

Torrential rainfalls began in Serbia on 13 May 2014, with precipitation equalling to two months' average rainfall just in two days' time. The floods and landslides caused 51 fatalities, destroyed over 420 housing units, and partially damaged another 19,000 homes. The total damage, including economic losses, is estimated at EUR 1.7 billion.

After the first phase of assistance, the Red Cross of Serbia shifted its activities from relief to recovery of the damaged households. To date, 12,558 beneficiaries have received the planned cash grant of CHF 255 per household, which means that the relief element of the operation has achieved its objectives.

Out of the total of 12,588 persons, the support for 6,900 beneficiaries is funded through this Emergency Appeal. The rest is provided by the Austrian Red Cross' Great Morava River Early Recovery and Resilience Project (4,235 persons) and other donors. Additionally the National Society has distributed 10,700 wall repair sets, out of which 4,100 were funded through this Emergency Appeal. A detailed breakdown will be provided in the final report.

Coordination and partnerships

Coordination among Movement partners is ensured through regular information exchange with IFRC and ICRC. Several National Societies around the world have launched fundraising campaigns for the floods in the Balkans.

The IFRC Secretariat assisted the Red Cross of Serbia through a DREF allocation of CHF 290,926 first, and then it launched an Emergency Appeal to support the Red Cross of Serbia's disaster response operation. Partner National Societies (PNSs) do not have offices or permanent representatives in Serbia, but PNS support has been provided through bilateral cash donations.

Operational implementation

Overall objective

The Red Cross of Serbia wishes to contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of 12,400 families affected by the floods, placing emphasis on the distribution of food and non-food items, water and sanitation and hygiene promotion as well as support their recovery. The NS will be focusing their programming on recovering shelter, enhancing at the same time the National Society's own disaster response capacity.

Progress

The current operation has met the needs of the 12,558 most vulnerable people through support for their immediate relief and early recovery needs.

The Red Cross of Serbia is concentrating its current response efforts on the following areas of intervention:

- Distribution of humanitarian aid (completed)
- Early recovery phase – improving the conditions of the affected homes for people (ongoing)
- National Society capacity building (ongoing)

Collection and distribution of humanitarian aid

The distribution system of the Red Cross of Serbia has a warehouse space of 2,628 m² for the storage of donations in kind, as well as the equipment necessary to respond to disasters. Due to the growing need for storage space, the Red Cross of Serbia rented an additional 12,000 m² of space. The RC of Serbia distributed 5,720 metric tons of goods from the warehouses out of which 3,355 MT consisted of food and water, with 630 MT of bulk hygiene items and 1,735 MT of other non-food items (NFI). In total, 3,628 metric tons of goods were collected and distributed among RC branches (mostly drinking water and used clothes).

Evacuation and shelter

Besides the distribution of humanitarian aid, the Red Cross of Serbia assisted those sheltered in collective centres with the distribution of food and non-food items including second hand clothes, mattresses, and blankets where needed. The Red Cross branches were providing assistance in 118 reception centers. The same type of assistance was given to people that were staying with their relatives and friends or in rented apartments.

The local Red Cross branches reported that the Red Cross of Serbia participated in the rescue of 5,020 people, and in the evacuation of 16,389 people.

Early recovery activities

The mobile technical teams of the Red Cross of Serbia were sent to the field with different specific tasks but with the overall goal to assist flooded households with early recovery activities. The tasks included mud and water removal, wall dehumidification in order to enable families to start house repairs as soon as possible.

The effective use of 272 dehumidifying machines was overseen by 135 members of the NS mobile technical teams who had 6,083 volunteering hours devoted to the dehumidification of 2,328 buildings in 21 municipalities. In total, 332,409 operational hours of dehumidifying machines have been recorded.

Mobile technical teams of the RCS were helping people in the affected cities where the water receded by pumping the water out of the flooded houses, In total, 23 mud pumps were used in 167 flooded buildings in eight municipalities (Svilajnac, Velika Plana, Zajecar, Vladimirici, Topola, Smederevo, Rekovac and Doljevac).

To date, 12,558 beneficiaries have received the planned cash grant of RSD 25,097 per household (approximately CHF 255). The support for 6,900 beneficiaries is funded through the Emergency Appeal. The unconditional cash transfers started supporting those households where the damages were on a high level (categories 5, 4, and 3) and gradually moving to household payments in the lower damage categories, subject to a sufficient Emergency Appeal funding. Although the cash grants were unconditional they were meant to support the families to repair one, or a maximum of two, rooms for use.

Additionally the National Society has distributed 10,700 wall repair sets, out of which 4,100 were funded through the Emergency Appeal. The rest is provided by the Austrian Red Cross` Great Morava River Early Recovery and Resilience Project (4,257) and other donors. The in-kind and cash contributions per household (EUR 60 in house repair sets and CHF 255 as unconditional cash transfer) cover around 10% of the estimated repair costs and approximately 20% for the replacement of furniture and technical appliances.

Number of beneficiaries for unconditional cash transfer (CT) until 24 May 2015	
6,900	CT source: IFRC Secretariat Emergency Appeal
1,670	CT source: donation received by RCS through in-country fundraising activities
3,988	CT source: Great Morava River Early Recovery and Resilience Project

Operational challenges

In the course of the project implementation, some operational challenges influenced the performance of the National Society.

- Data coordination between RCS and the Government / Municipalities posed challenges in the relief distribution.
- The prolonged process of registration for state assistance in shelter rehabilitation caused delays with the cash transfers from the Red Cross of Serbia.
- Due to the prolonged response of the National Society during 2014, the annual procurement plan had to be updated several times, requiring constitutionally each time a meeting of the Executive Board of NS for approval, and that procedure was time consuming.
- The unexpected procurements during the response operations often compromised the timeframe of planned annual NS programmes which in return delayed the process significantly and posed challenge to the NS in completing all procurements within the originally given Emergency Appeal implementation timeframe.

Overview of future planned actions

Support to shelter recovery will continue through unconditional cash transfer distributions in the amount of CHF 255 per household as long as the funds are available.

The NS capacity building component under this Emergency Appeal will continue with the procurement of two cross-country vehicles, two high pressure water pumps (6,000 lit/min), 30 RC uniforms, one electrical forklift, raw water and mud water pumps, and three tool boxes for the mobile technical teams. The procurement of 22 submersible water pumps has been completed, and for the remaining items the tender will be closed on 5 June 2015.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact the following.

- **Red Cross of Serbia:**

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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.

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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.

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRRS009 - Serbia - Flash Floods

Timeframe: 21 May 14 to 31 May 15

Appeal Launch Date: 27 May 14

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2014/5-2015/4	Programme	MDRRS009
Budget Timeframe	2014/5-2015/05	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

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		3,842,805				3,842,805	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
Cash contributions							
<i>American Red Cross</i>		293,276				293,276	
<i>Austrian Red Cross</i>		26,269				26,269	
<i>Austrian Red Cross (from Austrian Government*)</i>		180,585				180,585	
<i>Austrian Red Cross (from Julius Blum GmbH*)</i>		30,289				30,289	
<i>Belarus Red Cross</i>		17,605				17,605	
<i>BP British Petroleum</i>		11,294				11,294	
<i>C&A Foundation</i>		80,386				80,386	
<i>Canadian Red Cross</i>		41,311				41,311	
<i>Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government*)</i>		168,255				168,255	
<i>Charities Aid Foundation</i>		3,528				3,528	
<i>EMC Corporation</i>		22,587				22,587	
<i>European Commission - DG ECHO</i>		587,296				587,296	
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government*)</i>		243,192				243,192	
<i>French Red Cross</i>		10,026				10,026	
<i>French Red Cross (from French Government*)</i>		25,781				25,781	
<i>Hewlett Packard Co. Foundation</i>		11,294				11,294	
<i>Icelandic Red Cross</i>		3,150				3,150	
<i>Icelandic Red Cross (from Icelandic Government*)</i>		28,350				28,350	
<i>Irish Red Cross Society</i>		1,889				1,889	
<i>Italian Government Bilateral Emergency Fund</i>		244,200				244,200	
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>		150,131				150,131	
<i>Lithuanian Red Cross Society</i>		650				650	
<i>New Zealand Government</i>		117,210				117,210	
<i>On Line donations</i>		20,889				20,889	
<i>Red Crescent Society of Islamic Republic of Iran</i>		50,000				50,000	
<i>Red Cross of Monaco</i>		186,680				186,680	
<i>Slovak Red Cross</i>		1,725				1,725	
<i>Spanish Government</i>		36,012				36,012	
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>		238,647				238,647	
<i>Switzerland - Private Donors</i>		200				200	
<i>The Netherlands Red Cross</i>		94,471				94,471	
<i>The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government*)</i>		303,656				303,656	
<i>The Republic of Korea National Red Cross</i>		50,000				50,000	
<i>The Russian Red Cross Society</i>		6,478				6,478	
<i>UPS Oasis Supply Corp</i>		11,200				11,200	
<i>VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief</i>		800				800	
<i>Western Union Foundation</i>		37,503				37,503	
C1. Cash contributions		3,336,814				3,336,814	
Inkind Personnel							
<i>Irish Red Cross Society</i>		7,600				7,600	
C3. Inkind Personnel		7,600				7,600	
Other Income							
<i>Fundraising Fees</i>		-4,579				-4,579	
C4. Other Income		-4,579				-4,579	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		3,339,835				3,339,835	
D. Total Funding = B + C		3,339,835				3,339,835	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

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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							
C. Income		3,339,835				3,339,835	
E. Expenditure		-3,190,242				-3,190,242	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		149,592				149,592	

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Subsector:	*		

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		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)			3,842,805			3,842,805		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	108,800						108,800	
Food	265,475						265,475	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	4,120						4,120	
Utensils & Tools	374,509						374,509	
Other Supplies & Services	2,303,641						2,303,641	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	3,056,545						3,056,545	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	204,326		107,038			107,038	97,288	
Computers & Telecom	3,600		352			352	3,248	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	207,926		107,390			107,390	100,536	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	18,000						18,000	
Distribution & Monitoring	20,000		40			40	19,960	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	10,000						10,000	
Logistics Services			11,422			11,422	-11,422	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	48,000		11,462			11,462	36,538	
Personnel								
International Staff	5,000		10,613			10,613	-5,613	
National Staff			6,593			6,593	-6,593	
National Society Staff	96,710						96,710	
Volunteers	6,800		300			300	6,500	
Total Personnel	108,510		17,506			17,506	91,004	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Professional Fees	80,000		58,182			58,182	21,818	
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	80,000		58,182			58,182	21,818	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	42,200						42,200	
Total Workshops & Training	42,200						42,200	
General Expenditure								
Travel			3,527			3,527	-3,527	
Information & Public Relations	43,500						43,500	
Office Costs	9,300						9,300	
Communications	9,000		1,010			1,010	7,990	
Financial Charges			-90			-90	90	
Other General Expenses			-7			-7	7	
Shared Office and Services Costs			10,220			10,220	-10,220	
Total General Expenditure	61,800		14,661			14,661	47,139	
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies			2,764,758			2,764,758	-2,764,758	
Total Contributions & Transfers			2,764,758			2,764,758	-2,764,758	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recover	234,324		192,814			192,814	41,510	
Total Indirect Costs	234,324		192,814			192,814	41,510	
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee			17,308			17,308	-17,308	

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Subsector:	*		

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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		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)			3,842,805			3,842,805		
Pledge Reporting Fees	3,500		6,163			6,163	-2,663	
Total Pledge Specific Costs	3,500		23,470			23,470	-19,970	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3,842,805		3,190,242			3,190,242	652,563	
VARIANCE (C - D)			652,563			652,563		

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Subsector:	*		

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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	3,842,805		3,339,835	3,339,835	3,190,242	149,592	
Subtotal BL2	3,842,805		3,339,835	3,339,835	3,190,242	149,592	
GRAND TOTAL	3,842,805		3,339,835	3,339,835	3,190,242	149,592	