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Emergency Appeal operations update Bosnia and Herzegovina: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRBA009	GLIDE n° FF-2014-000059-BiH
Operations update n° 4 Date of issue: 21 October 2015	Timeframe covered by this update: 1 May 2015 - 30 September 2015
Emergency operation start date: 25 May 2014	Actual timeframe: 19 months; extended by three months until 31 December 2015
Appeal budget: CHF 3,975,881	Appeal coverage: 83%
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 334,013	
Number of people to be assisted by the end of operation: 60,600	
Host National Society presence: Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina with 4,842 volunteers, 200 staff, 154 branches directly involved in the response.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (both bilaterally and multilaterally): Albanian Red Cross, American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Belarus Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, Bulgarian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Croatian Red Cross, Czech Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Hellenic Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Irish Red Cross, Iranian Red Crescent, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Lithuanian Red Cross, Red Cross Society of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Monaco Red Cross, Montenegro Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Romanian Red Cross, Slovak Red Cross, Slovenian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, and the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: State authorities, International Organization for Migration and the IFRC Secretariat's Representation in Sarajevo.	

Summary of major changes made to the emergency plan of action:

An appeal of CHF 4,522,235 was initially launched on 14 May 2014 with the start-up funding of CHF 334,013 allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCS BiH) to support preparedness activities for 40,000 people (10,000 households) and provide basic emergency relief items, psycho-social assistance and cash transfers as the chosen mode of assistance for shelter to those affected by the floods.

A revision of the Emergency Appeal, effected in October 2014, was seeking to support an additional 17,505 beneficiaries for the next seven months with the main concern being the approaching cold season that was expected to worsen the conditions of beneficiaries, requiring further support for the repair of houses and preparations for winter.

Another revision of the Emergency Appeal was conducted in April 2015 seeking to extend the timeframe of the operation for another five months, until 30 September 2015. The aim was to provide beneficiaries who lost their means of making a living with items required to secure their necessities. With the extension of the Emergency Appeal until 30 September 2015 it was agreed that after providing primary help to the floods-affected persons with their return to their homes, the operation would focus on providing them with livelihood support.

In July and August 2015 the IFRC team and the National Society worked closely to identify 200 households (approximately 1,000 people) that would benefit from this support. The IFRC and the National Society then conducted assessment visits in 30 municipalities in the north of the country. The aim of the assessment was to find out whether potential beneficiaries were significantly affected by either floods or landslides and to determine whether they met the adopted selection criteria to receive either a heifer, or a motor cultivator, or a greenhouse or a set of beehives. The selection of these four different items was the result of thorough discussions with UNDP, FAO and the local entities to identify the most appropriate items for the context of the country.

All the preparation work was done carefully in order to ensure that the most vulnerable households should receive the required and relevant support. A livelihood consultant was hired to advise households on the quality of items and to link them up with longer term livelihood support available from local authorities.

While all the required preparations were done within the timeframe of the emergency appeal, there is a need to extend the emergency appeal by another three months for operational and financial reasons related to the procurement and distribution in order to finalize the Livelihood Project.

Summary

Following the changing humanitarian landscape in the country and the needs of the beneficiaries after the floods, a revised Emergency Appeal was launched in October 2014. The appeal sought CHF 3.9 million to enable the IFRC Secretariat to support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH) to deliver assistance and support to some 57,500 people until April 2015. The revised appeal consisted of programme components which aimed to assist with the normalization of people's lives in the flood-affected areas and communities.

During the reporting period, the activities of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH) focused on emergency rehabilitation of at least one room per family dwelling for the most vulnerable and marginalized people through a cash transfer programme. To date, 2,020 family dwellings¹ have been supported through the cash transfer programme. Furthermore, the RCSBiH began planning for the disaster preparedness programme component. Investing in disaster preparedness before a disaster occurs will reduce the need for humanitarian action in future.

The scope of the latest disaster required the mobilization of all National Society resources and the use of all available stocks of emergency supplies. The staff and volunteers were working around the clock to respond to the floods emergency. The RCSBiH's response operation was supported by 4,842 volunteers and 200 staff at 154 branches. Some of the main forms of support included first aid assistance and the distribution of food and non-food items. The RCSBiH collected and distributed relief supplies domestically in the value of approximately CHF 2.1 million. Moreover, the RCSBiH focused on the provision of psychosocial support, water & sanitation and hygiene promotion. As part of its water and sanitation activities, the National Society carried out the distribution of water purification tablets during its well cleaning, water testing and hygiene promotion campaigns. The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is also providing psychosocial support through support groups, youth centres, visits to schools, households and communities.

Situation analysis

After July 2014, the floods triggered more than 3,000 landslides in BiH destroying some 2,000 households and livelihoods. The summer was rainy and humid. Hence it delayed critical repairs and refurbishing.

At the beginning of August 2014, just as the situation began to normalize after the previous floods, heavy rains hit the central, northern and southern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina causing new flooding, landslides, damages to property, infrastructure and agricultural lands. Some areas that had been hit by the May 2014 floods were flooded again (Zenica, Topcic Polje, Zepce, Zeljezno Polje, Banja Luka, Srebrenik, Tuzla, Celic, Lukavac, Gracanica, Doboj Istok, Celinac, Bijeljina, and Brcko District). Families living in the affected areas lost a significant portion of their livelihoods, often their only source of income, depleting the families' resilience and coping mechanisms. The greatest damage occurred to residential buildings, thus worsening the humanitarian and social conditions even further.



Bilateral WatSan support from Austrian RC. Photo: RCSBiH



Group work during a hygiene promotion refresher course. Photo: RCSBiH

¹ On average, a household has five members.

The winter season brought heavy snowfalls and low temperatures putting additionally at risk the health and lives of the affected population. The floods further aggravated poverty, hampered economic growth and caused environmental damages and human suffering. Along the previous phases of the operation in the summer and autumn of 2014, the aim was to provide families whose houses were damaged with means to rehabilitate at least one room in their dwellings. In the conclusive phase of the Emergency Appeal, the focus has been shifting to rural families that have partially or completely lost their means for making a living from farming and other rural activities.

Coordination and partnerships

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Coordination among Movement partners is ensured through regular information exchange and meetings. IFRC Secretariat support is provided to the RCSBiH through the IFRC Secretariat's Country Representation Office and the IFRC Secretariat's Europe Zone Office.

The RCSBiH and the IFRC Secretariat have been organizing on-going relief food and non-food distributions in many affected areas including a cash distribution programme. Based on the prioritization of the most vulnerable areas, the geographical targeting for the on-going recovery activities included the 11 most vulnerable municipalities across all planned sector interventions.

The Swiss Red Cross and the Austrian Red Cross have mobilized substantial support, and they will conduct a programme, jointly with RCSBiH, to support livelihood recovery and the rehabilitation of homes.

The Swiss Red Cross has had a long term bilateral engagement with RCSBiH through its office in Tuzla. Since the onset of the floods, the Swiss RC has provided support in the form of non-food item (NFI) distributions for cleaning, disinfecting and drying people's homes. The Swiss Red Cross has launched an evaluation of the Cash Transfer Program, aiming at analyzing the benefits and constraints encountered along the process.

The Austrian RC provided continued support to the BiH floods operation - both multilaterally and bilaterally. The team was led and managed by the Austrian RC; with two hygiene promoters, a laboratory technician and a project coordinator. The same team was supported with water and sanitation technical specialists from the Croatian and Slovenian Red Cross Societies.

Communication

The IFRC Secretariat deployed its Emergency Communication personnel to Bosnia and Herzegovina in September 2014 and February 2015 to help the National Society with publishing articles, photos and videos through the website at www.ifrc.org and through other media platforms. With the support of the ICRC, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently working on developing information bulletins which cover the overall flood response and activities of the National Society.

Operational implementation

Overall objective

With all its activities under this Emergency Appeal, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Red Cross is contributing to the improvement of immediate needs of 60,600 families affected by the floods, placing emphasis on the distribution of food and non-food items, water and sanitation, shelter, hygiene promotion, psychosocial awareness and livelihood through in-kind and cash transfer programming.

Progress towards outcomes based on the IFRC appeal

For progress achieved prior to production of this Update, please refer to Emergency Appeal Operation Updates No. 1., No. 2 and No. 3.



Beneficiary verification and household visits in Tuzla in the cash transfer program. Photo: RCSBiH

Operational support services

Logistics and supply chain

All logistics and procurement activities have been undertaken in compliance with IFRC procedures and relevant local legislation. The procurement of *relief items* was conducted by August 2014 with the support of the IFRC Secretariat's Global Logistics Service (Dubai Office) in a transparent and cost-efficient manner.

Monitoring

The IFRC Secretariat's Country Representation in BiH has been visiting the operational areas and has been meeting with the leadership, program staff and volunteers of the National Society with the aim to monitor and support the implementation of the operation.

There are also regular visits from the IFRC Secretariat's Regional Office for Europe so as to support the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina in communication, partnership and capacity building.

During the reporting period the Psycho-Social Support Delegate from Icelandic Red Cross, the Program Officer from Canadian Red Cross and the Emergencies (ERU) Coordinator for the French Red Cross conducted monitoring visits to the flood-affected areas.

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 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.

Contact information

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Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRBA009 - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Floods

Timeframe: 19 May 14 to 30 Sep 15

Appeal Launch Date: 25 May 14

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2014/5-2015/9	Programme	MDRBA009
Budget Timeframe	2014/5-2015/9	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		3,975,881				3,975,881	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
Cash contributions							
American Red Cross		426,266				426,266	
Austrian Red Cross		19,094				19,094	
Austrian Red Cross (from Austrian Government*)		194,070				194,070	
Austrian Red Cross (from Julius Blum GmbH*)		90,961				90,961	
BP British Petroleum		11,294				11,294	
British Red Cross		287,372				287,372	
C&A Foundation		80,386				80,386	
Canadian Red Cross		118,744				118,744	
Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government*)		168,500				168,500	
Charities Aid Foundation		3,528				3,528	
Danish Red Cross		44,918				44,918	
Finnish Red Cross		13,227				13,227	
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government*)		243,192				243,192	
French Red Cross		10,026				10,026	
French Red Cross (from French Government*)		25,781				25,781	
Great Britain - Private Donors		200				200	
Hewlett Packard Co. Foundation		11,294				11,294	
Icelandic Red Cross		18,500				18,500	
Icelandic Red Cross (from Icelandic Government*)		31,500				31,500	
Irish Red Cross Society		2,246				2,246	
Italian Government Bilateral Emergency Fund		122,100				122,100	
Italian Red Cross		57,731				57,731	
Italy - Private Donors		12				12	
Japanese Red Cross Society		150,131				150,131	
Lithuanian Red Cross Society		651				651	
Lithuania- Private Donors		6				6	
New Zealand Government		117,210				117,210	
Norwegian Red Cross		153,346				153,346	
On Line donations		52,593				52,593	
Other		453				453	
Red Crescent Society of Islamic Republic of Iran		50,000				50,000	
Red Cross of Monaco		30,342				30,342	
Romanian Red Cross		4,962				4,962	
Slovak Red Cross		1,823				1,823	
Spanish Government		36,012				36,012	
Swedish Red Cross		267,542				267,542	
The Netherlands Red Cross		94,471				94,471	
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government*)		255,071				255,071	
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Red Cross Silent Emergency Fund*)		48,757				48,757	
UPS Oasis Supply Corp		11,200				11,200	
VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief		800				800	
Western Union Foundation		37,503				37,503	
C1. Cash contributions		3,293,816				3,293,816	
Inkind Personnel							
American Red Cross		7,600				7,600	
Irish Red Cross Society		7,420				7,420	
C3. Inkind Personnel		15,020				15,020	
Other Income							
Fundraising Fees		-4,579				-4,579	

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C4. Other Income	-4,579	-4,579
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	3,304,257	3,304,257
D. Total Funding = B + C	3,304,257	3,304,257

* 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							
C. Income		3,304,257				3,304,257	
E. Expenditure		-2,652,201				-2,652,201	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		652,056				652,056	

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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)			3,975,881			3,975,881		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	96,227		168,773			168,773	-72,546	
Food	61,526		61,526			61,526	0	
Seeds & Plants	1,025,000						1,025,000	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	212,558		176,256			176,256	36,302	
Utensils & Tools	200,906		28,581			28,581	172,325	
Other Supplies & Services	0		21,942			21,942	-21,942	
Cash Disbursement	1,313,550		1,266,496			1,266,496	47,054	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	2,909,767		1,723,574			1,723,574	1,186,193	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	94,000						94,000	
Vehicles	85,601		90,076			90,076	-4,475	
Computers & Telecom	8,000		1,424			1,424	6,576	
Office & Household Equipment			1,617			1,617	-1,617	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	187,601		93,117			93,117	94,484	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage			5,574			5,574	-5,574	
Distribution & Monitoring	31,841		20,472			20,472	11,368	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	43,015		54,580			54,580	-11,565	
Logistics Services	14,507		9,199			9,199	5,308	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	89,363		89,825			89,825	-463	
Personnel								
International Staff	126,485		177,402			177,402	-50,917	
National Staff	60,000		69,686			69,686	-9,686	
National Society Staff	73,622		105,653			105,653	-32,031	
Volunteers	375		504			504	-129	
Other Staff Benefits	41,010						41,010	
Total Personnel	301,492		353,244			353,244	-51,752	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	6,000		3,304			3,304	2,696	
Professional Fees	35,000		28,331			28,331	6,669	
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	41,000		31,636			31,636	9,364	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	72,825		51,103			51,103	21,723	
Total Workshops & Training	72,825		51,103			51,103	21,723	
General Expenditure								
Travel	24,000		20,133			20,133	3,867	
Information & Public Relations	33,000		7,187			7,187	25,813	
Office Costs	24,700		16,006			16,006	8,694	
Communications	6,300		6,947			6,947	-647	
Financial Charges	9,970		62,879			62,879	-52,909	
Other General Expenses	8,500		1,648			1,648	6,852	
Shared Office and Services Costs	14,844		8,452			8,452	6,392	
Total General Expenditure	121,314		123,252			123,252	-1,938	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recover	242,019		159,300			159,300	82,719	
Total Indirect Costs	242,019		159,300			159,300	82,719	

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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)			3,975,881			3,975,881		
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee			18,676			18,676	-18,676	
Pledge Reporting Fees	10,500		8,475			8,475	2,025	
Total Pledge Specific Costs	10,500		27,150			27,150	-16,650	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	3,975,881		2,652,201			2,652,201	1,323,679	
VARIANCE (C - D)			1,323,679			1,323,679		

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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	3,975,881		3,304,257	3,304,257	2,652,201	652,056	
Subtotal BL2	3,975,881		3,304,257	3,304,257	2,652,201	652,056	
GRAND TOTAL	3,975,881		3,304,257	3,304,257	2,652,201	652,056	