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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Albania: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n° MDRAL006	Glide n° FL-2016-000117-ALB
Date of issue: 22 November 2016	Expected timeframe: 4 months Expected end date: 19 March 2017
DREF allocated: CHF 137,736	
Total number of people affected: 4,500 people	Number of people to be assisted: 4,500 persons (approximately 1,000 families)
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Albanian Red Cross (ARC) with 20 staff, 300 volunteers	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Since 7 November 2016, heavy rainfall affected Albania, especially the northern regions of the country. River flows have been rapidly increasing and worsened by illegal constructions next to river basins causing streams of water to descend into towns.

The heavy rainfall has made the water levels of the Drini and Mat rivers rise, which feed five hydroelectricity power lakes built on the rivers (Fierza, Koman, Vau i Dejes, Ulza and Shkopet). Authorities have been obliged to open the emergency gates to release the water from the lakes. The rain is nevertheless falling and the flooding is spreading to the Southern region (Vlora and Fier areas) with the water level of the Vjosa River rising. In these areas, 25 houses have been affected and the families have been evacuated from their homes.



Recent floods in northern Albania affected at least 1,000 families. The Albanian Red Cross distributed flood, clothing and toiletries. Source: Albanian Red Cross

Subsequent to the alert of the Meteorological institute, the Ministry of Interior (Moi) ordered the establishment of several "Emergency Headquarters" across the country. In response to the warnings the police, emergency and technical response teams were instructed to be on full alert. Additionally, the Moi instructed all mayors and local representatives to take necessary precautions and advised people in the affected areas to restrain movements, in particular unaccompanied children. Schools and colleges were closed as a precaution.

Subsequently, the Albanian Government mobilized the State Police forces, the Military Units, and Fire Brigades Units to assist the affected families with evacuation from homes and schools. The municipality of Tirana distributed ready-to-eat daily food (only enough for 2-3 days) and water and provided beds to the people accommodated in collective centers. The government has started repairing the damaged bridges and roads in order to allow proper transportation among the people living in affected areas.

According to official information, three people lost their lives. One of the fatalities occurred in the village of Plan, Dibër county, where the victim attempted to cross a river by car. The other fatality occurred when the victim fell into the swollen Tirana River in Tirana.

The Albanian Red Cross branches operating in the flooded areas informed that the affected families have lost their winter food reserves including their home furniture and electro domestic devices. The most affected areas are Fushe-Kruja, Lezha, Tirana, Shkodra, Shijak, Mat, Dibra, and Vlora.

The weather forecast announced that the rain will stop in the next 2-3 days, but the snow in the mountain is melting and heavy rains are forecast in the near future across Albania.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Albanian Red Cross branches have been monitoring the development of the situation in the affected areas. The headquarters' staff visited the flooded areas. The Secretaries of the branches are participating in the meetings of the emergency management commissions setup by the authorities.

A preliminary assessment for the damages and needs is being carried out, which assessment showed partial damages to houses and destroyed furniture, equipment and food reserves.

Trained volunteers from ten Red Cross branches have been mobilized and have been conducting preliminary assessments, including monitoring, collecting information and providing relief assistance to the affected population. There are 300 volunteers mobilized assisting in the emergency response. The Albanian Red Cross has adequate human resource capacities to respond to the emergency needs and to implement the relief operation by mobilizing its own disaster response teams.

The National Society has provided food and non-food items from stocks to altogether 300 families as follows:

At first, ARC distributed food parcels for 150 families in *Fushe Kruja* (contents: wheat flour - 20 kg, oil - 4 litres, beans - 4 kg, rice - 4 kg, pasta - 4 kg, sugar - 4 kg, salt - 0.5 kg), hygiene kits and altogether 750 blankets.

ARC later continued the distribution from stocks of the same packages for another 150 families, respectively: 35 families in *Shijak* and 50 families in *Lezha* and 65 families in *Tirana*.

The National Society through its Tirana Branch has also distributed the following food and non-food items for 200 people accommodated in collective centres:

- 200 ready-to-eat food rations (bread, cheese, salami, jam etc.);
- 50 blankets for collective centres;
- 10 hygiene parcels for collective centres;
- Clothes for 200 people accommodated in two school premises /collective centres.

Movement Coordination

The IFRC Regional Office for Europe (ROE) in Budapest is assisting the National Society and ensures regular information exchange and remote technical support.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Albanian Red Cross has been closely coordinating with the authorities at both local and national levels. The Red Cross branch representatives have been participating in the local meetings of the emergency management commission set up in twelve municipalities.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

According to the preliminary assessments conducted by the teams from the Red Cross branches in the most affected districts, the number of the affected families is 1,000. This number includes 250 families that have been evacuated by military units and other governmental authorities.

The following table shows the affected families according to municipalities:

Local unit/Municipality	Affected families
Fushe Kruje	280
Tirane suburb	220
Lezha Municipality	155
Shkodra suburb	150
Shijak	35
Mat	45
Diber	60
Durres	30
Vlora	25
Total	1,000

The affected families are located mostly in urban areas and have lost most of their food reserves, home furniture and home appliances. Some families in rural areas have lost their crops and some livestock. Approximately 2,500 acres of land are flooded and 1,500 houses are damaged, most of them already flooded.

Based on the established criteria priority will be given to:

- Families evacuated and accommodated with their relatives;
- Families most affected by the floods but not evacuated;
- Families with, elderly people, widowed women with young children;

The priorities of needs for the affected population and the ARC response are the followings:

- *Accommodation.* The evacuated people are accommodated mostly with family relatives, while the local authorities are assisting the people accommodated in the collective centres. Albanian Red Cross will contribute with the distribution of blankets for all the affected families.
- *Food.* the Albanian Red Cross, in close cooperation with local authorities, will cover the needs for food for about 1,000 families (4,500 individuals).
- *Water and sanitation.* there is a need for hygienic kits and awareness promotion to these families for individual hygiene, environmental sanitation and disaster risk reduction. ARC will address the needs with discussions with ARC health coordinator and distributions leaflets and brushes.
- *Compensation of house damages for affected families.* This need will be covered by the Albanian Government which will compensate the families for house repairing and for the damage in the furniture and home appliances based on the preliminary assessment process which has initiated since the onset of the emergency.

Risk assessment

The continuation of the rainfall is forecasted for the coming days, new flooding is expected in the same areas as mentioned above. The ARC will distribute 5,000 leaflets with information on community actions before, during and after floods.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The immediate needs of 4,500 flood-affected people (1,000 families) in nine affected areas in Albania are met through the provision of basic food and non-food items, and hygiene promotion.

Proposed strategy

To accomplish the overall objective, the Red Cross staff and volunteers are focusing on the provision of emergency food and non-food distribution and hygiene promotion activities. The key activities planned as part of this operation are as follows:

- Completion of the beneficiaries' lists according to the criteria agreed with the local authorities
- Distribution of 1,000 food parcels (1 parcel per family for 1 month): procurement of 700 food parcels and replenishment of 300 food parcels of Albanian Red Cross stock;
- Distribution of 1,000 hygiene kits (1 hygiene kits per family per month): procurement of 700 hygiene kits and replenishment of 300 hygiene kits distributed;
- Distribution of 5,000 blankets (5 per family): procurement of 4,200 blankets and replenishment of 800 blankets from the Disaster Preparedness stocks of the National Society;
- Distribution of 5,000 leaflets on public awareness about hygiene promotion during the relief distribution;
- Evaluation and lesson learnt workshop organized with Red Cross branches staff and volunteers.

Each family selected will receive one monthly relief package consisting of 1 food parcel, 1 hygiene kit and 5 blankets. The contents of the monthly food and hygiene parcels are the following:

Food items	Quantity
White flour	20 kg
Rice	4 kg
Sugar	4 kg
Vegetable oil	4 liters
White beans	4 kg
Pasta	4 kg
Salt	0.5 kg

Hygiene items	Quantity
Washing powder	3 kg
Shampoo	500 ml
Soap	12 pieces
Toilet paper	12 rolls
Toothpaste	2x75 ml tubes
Tooth brush	5 units
Disposable razors	5 units
Hygienic pads	80 units

Relief items will be distributed based on the above-mentioned beneficiary selection criteria and in close coordination with the emergency response units.

Operational support services

Human resources

The number of the Albanian Red Cross staff engaged in the response operation is 15 permanent staff from headquarters and 9 staff from Local Branches. In addition 300 volunteers have been mobilized to assist in the implementation of the relief operation.

Logistics and supply chain

The National Society's Logistics department has enough capacity to support the planned activities in this operation. The food items are planned to be procured in country by the ARC, while blankets and hygiene kits will be purchased by IFRC Logistics Management Department. Disaster Preparedness stockpiles of the National Society have already been used in the immediate response phase and stock levels will be replenished to keep this response capacity for future emergencies. The procurement process will follow the administrative regulations of Albanian Red Cross and will be done in accordance with IFRC procedures (specially for purchases with value over CHF 50,000 and/or medical items, construction regardless of purchase value for which technical review by IFRC Logistics Management Department is required before placing any order with suppliers). The operational costs as distribution costs and the cost of awareness materials and the organizing of workshop are also foreseen in the DREF budget.

Communications

During the relief distribution the visibility will be ensured through national and local media and updated press releases launched by the Albanian Red Cross Public Relation Office.

News and photos will be disseminated through the electronic media, social media, newspapers and the Albanian Red Cross website: www.kksh.org.al and Facebook: www.facebook.com/kksh.selia

Additionally the IFRC communications unit in the Regional Office for Europe has published on 11 November, a web story on the emergency. To view, please click here: [Torrential rain sees flooding ravage villages in Kosovo and Albania](#)

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

The Albanian Red Cross staff in HQ, the DPP Coordinator and Health and Care Coordinators will continuously monitor the implementation of the planned activities. The daily monitoring of the operation will be the responsibility of the Albanian Red Cross branches in the affected areas. In addition, the nine Red Cross branches will be engaged in the distribution of relief items to the beneficiaries in order to ensure that Red Cross assistance goes directly to the most affected population.

Compilation of the beneficiary lists will be done in cooperation with local authorities in order to determine the most affected families. Updated information on the implementation of the operation will be provided to the IFRC Regional Office for Europe on a regular basis. The DM Coordinator of the IFRC will conduct a monitoring visit in coordination with the Albanian Red Cross to see the progress of the operation and the implementation of the relief operation. A workshop on lessons learned and evaluation will be organized by the end of the operation.

Administration and Finance

Administration and finance activities will be implemented by administrator/finance staff in RC branches together with secretary RC Branches under the supervision of Finance Department in HQ and monitored by vice/Secretary General of Albania Red Cross. IFRC ROE will make sure that the financial procedures are conform to IFRC standards.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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 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**.

DREF OPERATION

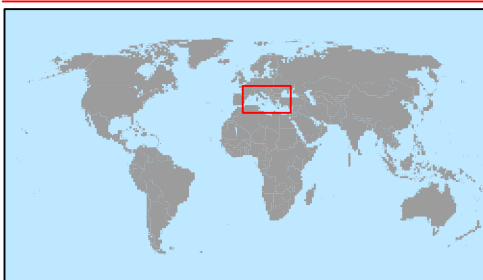
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Albania Floods 2016

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	36,000
Food	38,000
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	19,200
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	93,200
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	960
Distribution & Monitoring	3,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	12,400
Logistics Services	5,000
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	21,360
International Staff	
National Staff	4,080
National Society Staff	4,050
Volunteers	
Total PERSONNEL	8,130
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	4,800
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	4,800
Travel	
Information & Public Relations	1,200
Office Costs	640
Communications	
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
Shared Office and Services Costs	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	1,840
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	8,406
Total INDIRECT COSTS	8,406
TOTAL BUDGET	137,736



Albania: Flash Floods



◆ Affected Local Unit / Municipality