

Emergency Plan of Action Operation Update

Albania: Floods

DREF Operation n° MDRAL007	Glide n° FL-2017-000174-ALB
EPoA update n° 1; 27 February 2018	Timeframe covered by this update: 9 December 2017 to 16 February 2018
Operation start date: 3 December 2017	Operation timeframe: 9 December to 9 May 2018 (extended by two months)
Overall operation budget: CHF 222,915	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 222,915 (allocation unchanged)
N° of people being assisted: In total 2,850 families (about 11,000 people) from DREF; 1850 families by Red Cross Red Crescent Partners	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: IFRC, Turkish Red Crescent Society, Macedonian Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Croatian Red Cross, Red Cross Society of China, Red Cross of Montenegro, Bulgarian Red Cross	
Other partner organisations actively involved in the operation: Directory for Civil Emergency; Prefectures/Municipalities	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

This DREF Operations Update is issued to inform about a two-month timeframe extension to allow the finalisation of the procurement of the relief items for the replenishment of disaster preparedness stocks (blankets and hygiene kits), which has been slightly delayed due to technical reasons.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Heavy rainfall affected the territory of Albania starting on 30 November 2017. In some areas, the density of rain was 130 mm for two uninterrupted hours. The rivers levels have been rapidly increasing, the water channels were blocked by debris streams, leading to floods in urban and densely-populated areas.

Based on the bulletin issued by Albania's Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment Institute forecasting heavy rains for the period between 29 November and 4 December 2017, the Directory for Civil Emergency issued an early warning to the population for flooding and landslides. The Albania central government ordered the establishment of Emergency Management Commissions across the country in response to the situation and all structures of police, army units, and emergency response teams to be placed on full alert. In addition, the Ministry of Education suspended the school activities in entire country. Thanks to the early warning and measures taken by respective governmental structures, no lives were lost. The number of people evacuating from these areas on their own was higher compared to previous flood events.

On 2 December 2017, the Vjosa, Devoll, Osum and Seman rivers have overflowed their banks, causing huge flooding in several areas endangering also some major national highways. The populated areas most affected by the overflow of rivers were the following: Fushë-Krujë, Ura e Gjoles, Murqine, Vore, Kamez, Laprake, Darzeze, Jaru, Bishtan, Ferras, Kashisht, Martin, Novosele, Bishan, Mifol, Fitore, Ure Vajgurore, Korce, and Gjirokaster. The civil emergency structures, the military units and state police evacuated the most vulnerable families in the three most affected areas of Vlora, Fier and Fushë-Krujë, and, in the areas where the conditions allowed, have started repairing the damaged infrastructure.

According to official figures provided by the government, 1,550 persons have been evacuated and were accommodated at sports facilities/halls, school dormitories or at their relatives. 3,340 houses were flooded, 65 bridges collapsed, and 56 public schools were damaged, while 15,000 hectares of land was brought under water. In some areas, the water was not suitable for drinking; and electricity supplies were also cut off in some of the affected areas. According to the information provided by the 22 Albanian Red Cross (ARC) branches which were operating in the flooded areas, approximately 4,700 families (or approximately 21,000 people) were affected by the floods in total. According to the initial assessment, about 2,000 families were identified as severely-affected, and later on 3,000 families were recorded to have incurred considerable losses. The affected families have lost mostly their winter food reserves and partly their livestock, home furniture and domestic electrical devices. In addition, daily information received by the ARC branches showed that there was no need for Restoring Family Links (RFL) services as the evacuated families were accommodated by their relatives and school facilities while the communication network was well-functioning.

Summary of current response

In response to emergency, ARC has carried out the following activities:

- ARC closely coordinated with the local authorities in assessing the situation and mapping the needs. 22 ARC branches mobilised 450 trained volunteers, who were involved in raising awareness of the population, monitoring of and collecting information on the situation, conducting preliminary assessments and in the relief distribution. The secretaries of the ARC branches participated in the meeting of the emergency management commissions, and awareness-raising messages for the population were disseminated through social media channels (such as the National Society's [Facebook page](#) and [website](#)). One dedicated person was appointed to coordinate the distribution at the HQ level.
- ARC immediately commenced the distribution of 1,100 blankets and 7.4 MT of basic food items from disaster stock and 750 liters water for about 1,100 people who were accommodated at the collective centers in Durres, Berat, Kavaja, Tirana, as well as others accommodated at their relatives'.
- Meanwhile on 3 December, ARC started the distribution of the standard ration package per family, which contained 20 kg wheat flour, 20.5 kg basic food, 4 blankets and 1 hygiene kit – all items coming from disaster contingency stock –, reaching 700 most-affected families.
- Subsequently, the logistic division of ARC organised a tendering procedure and purchased 2,000 food parcels as was planned in the DREF EPoA. Of these, 700 were used to replenish the contingency stock, while 1,300 were distributed to beneficiaries.
- ARC printed labels with the ARC logo for carton boxes to hold the food items, and continued the distribution according to the plan.
- ARC also purchased 1,000 additional food parcels for stock reserve since as the winter set, to be prepared for the onset of an upcoming disaster.
- ARC organised two workshops with 60 participants from 22 schools in flood-affected areas, with the aim of promoting awareness of risk and of hygiene and sanitation activities.
- In addition to the above, ARC received separate contributions/donations from the Turkish Red Crescent Society, Macedonian Red Cross, Italian Red Cross and other National Societies, enabling ARC to support 1,000 additional families with food and non-food items (blankets, mattresses, shoes, baby food, etc), which are currently in process of distribution.
- The Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator and other relevant staff from the ARC Headquarters (HQ) in Tirana conducted regular field visits to the affected areas.

In total, ARC assisted a total of 2,850 affected families in the reporting period (from DP stock, DREF, and partner contributions), including the following number of families by geographic area: Fushë Krujë – 385 families, Fier – 820 families, Vlorë – 520 families, Tirana – 195 families, Kamëz – 100 families, Vorë – 55 families, Shijak – 40 families, Berat – 50 families, Lezhë – 40 families, Elbasan – 30 families, Korçë – 70 families, Gjirokastër – 90 families, Durrës – 50 families, Laç – 25 families, Kukës – 30 families, Kucovë – 20 families. The remaining assisted families were families affected by floods and at the same time living in poor conditions, in other areas of the county.

The following activities are currently in progress:

- ARC logistics are in process of producing t-shirts and caps with the ARC emblem for staff and volunteers involved in the relief operation to ensure visibility and organisational branding.
- Awareness-raising leaflets for risks and hygiene promotion materials are currently being produced.
- A 'lessons-learned workshop' will take place in Tirana 8–9 March 2018, involving ARC branch staff and volunteers who participated in the floods emergency response activities. The workshop will be facilitated by ARC HQ staff, with IFRC Regional Office for Europe (ROE) staff participating and providing technical support for monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities on the side.

- **Replenishment of DP stocks for blankets and hygiene kits is in process and will be done through IFRC Operational Logistics Procurement and Supply Chain (LPSCM).**

All procurements related to this EPoA are following the IFRC standards and procurement procedures.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

ARC maintains close contacts with IFRC ROE in Budapest for advising and support with the use of regional and global disaster response tools. In addition, the following National Societies have offered relief items and financial donation through bilateral support:

- Turkish Red Crescent (1,000 blankets, 750 hygiene kits and EUR 15,000 for food parcels),
- Macedonian Red Cross has donate 3 truck with food, hygienic kits,blaketsec..and EUR 10 000),
- Red Cross of Montenegro (rubber boots, blankets, jerry cans, jackets in the total value of EUR 7,000)
- Bulgarian Red Cross (500 blankets, 500 bed linens) contribute through respective civil emergency system.
- Red Cross Society of China (50,000 USD)
- Italian Red Cross (one truck with clothes, blankets and hygiene items)
- Croatian Red Cross (5,000 EUR)

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Directory of Civil Emergency coordinated the response on behalf of all Albanian state structures. The Albanian government has mobilised the state police forces, military units and fire brigades units, which assisted the affected families in high-risk areas, especially with evacuations and the reinforcement of rivers dams and reparation of the damaged bridges.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

As a result of the floods, the needs of affected population were wide and immediate, especially for those families which have lost most of their assets. The main priorities of needs for the affected population were the shelter and accommodation of evacuated people which were accommodated partly in collective centers, but mostly at their relatives' homes. ARC assistance focused on distribution of blankets and fresh food, initially at collective centres.

The affected families living in the towns have lost winter food reserves, home furniture and domestic electrical devices, while the families living in rural areas have lost all the above-mentioned assets and additionally crops and livestock due to the flooded lands, which will affect their economy in the long term. ARC distributed basic food parcels for a period of one month to families which returned to their houses after evacuation, and for the worst-affected families.

Due to the overflow of rivers, in some areas, the water became unsuitable for consumption. In the collective centres, water services have been provided by local authorities; however, ARC has also contributed in a few cases. Hygiene and sanitation conditions in affected areas remain poor and so far, no measures have been taken to restore them. ARC delivered hygiene kits, and has organised hygiene and sanitation awareness activities with members of affected communities and with schools. Empirical evidence has shown that behaviours towards the environment, and the limited knowledge of people regarding risk prevention contribute to and widen the impact of floods. Awareness activities on flood risks and prevention have initially been organised at schools and in communities in affected areas.

While the number of affected families by flood estimated at about 4,700 families, the DREF relief emergency operation targeted 2,000 severely-affected families or approximately 8,000 people who sustained heavy losses (including to their winter food reserves, furniture, personal belongings, livestock, etc.). An additional 1,000 affected families have been assisted with doantions received from contributions of other National Societies (see *Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country* above). The rest of the needs were to be covered by government aid and other donations.

Operation Risk Assessment

The weather situation has been continually monitored monitored. Another factor to consider is the deterioration of roads in the affected areas, which could limit access to communities in need, primarily those that have been cut off by the flooding.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Provide assistance to 2,000 families (approximately 8,000 people) affected by the flooding through provision of basic food and non-food items, hygiene promotion and flood risks and prevention awareness activities to affected communities on the flood hazard and climate change. An additional 1,000 families were reached with help from donations offered by other National Societies.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People reached:

Male: 48 per cent

Female: 52 per cent

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Output 1.1: Immediate relief and shelter needs of the target population in flood-affected areas were met, over a period of 3 months

Indicators:

of people provided with basic non-food items (blankets)

Target

8,000

Actual

8,000

Progress towards outcomes

According to official figures provided by the government, 1,550 persons have been evacuated and were accommodated at sports facilities/halls, school dormitories or at their relatives.

ARC immediately distributed 1,100 blankets for about 1,100 people, who were accommodated at the collective centers or accommodated at their relatives in Durres, Berat, and Kavaje.

ARC also distributed the standard ration package per family with food, non-food and blankets from disaster contingency stock.

A total of 8,000 blankets distributed from DP were stock funded by DREF.



Image 1. Blankets, food and non-food items distributed to beneficiaries. Photo: ARC



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached:

Male: 48

Female: 52

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Output 1.2: Basic needs for food of the target population in flood-affected areas are met, over a period of 3 months

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families provided with food assistance for basic needs	2,000	2,000

Output 1.4: Community awareness activities on livelihoods strengthening and protection are carried out with target communities and public actors

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with awareness activities (leaflets)	15,000	11,000

Progress towards outcomes

ARC immediately commenced the distribution of 7.4 MT of basic food items from disaster stock and 750 liters water for about 1,100 people who were accommodated at the collective centers in Durres, Berat, Kavaja, Tirana, as well as others accommodated at their relatives'. ARC also distributed standard ration packages to 700 most-affected families.

Subsequently, the logistic division of ARC organised a tendering procedure and purchased 2,000 food parcel as was planned in the DREF EPoA. Of these, 700 were used to replenish the contingency stock, while 1,300 were distributed to beneficiaries.

ARC printed labels with the ARC logo for carton boxes to hold the food items, and continued the distribution according to the plan.

A 'lessons-learned workshop' will take place in Tirana 8–9 March 2018, involving ARC branch staff and volunteers who participated in the floods emergency response activities. The workshop will be facilitated by ARC HQ staff, with IFRC Regional Office for Europe (ROE) staff participating and providing technical support for monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities on the side.

11,000 awareness leaflets have been distributed, with a further 4,000 planned to be distributed upcoming risk and hygiene promotion activities in schools (see also under Water, sanitation and hygiene below)



Image 2. Distribution in Tirana. Photo: ARC



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached:

Male:

Female:

Outcome 1: The affected population by flood has covered their needs with water and hygienic items which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality

Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached and assisted with drinking water	750	750

Output 1.5: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of hygiene kits distributed	2,000	2,000

Output 2.4: Hygiene promotion activities are provided to the entire affected population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of hygiene leaflets distributed	15,000	11,000

Progress towards outcomes

ARC has provided 750 bottles of water, partly for people accommodated in collective centres, and the rest to people in affected communities. So far, ARC has distributed 2,850 hygiene kits (2,000 of which were covered from this DREF), and some 11,000 promotion leaflets.

ARC has organised two workshops with 60 participants from 22 schools in flood-affected areas, with the aim of promoting awareness of risk and of hygiene and sanitation activities. Further risk and hygiene activities in schools are currently underway, with hygiene leaflets being distributed.

ARC logistics are in process of producing t-shirts and caps with the ARC emblem for staff and volunteers involved in the relief operation to ensure visibility and organisational branding.



Image 3. Awareness-raising workshop in Tirana. Photo: ARC

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Outcome 3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable

Output 3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming

Progress towards outcomes

The Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator and other relevant staff from the ARC Headquarters (HQ) in Tirana, and Secretaries of RC branches have monitored and conducted regular field visits to the affected areas.

↘ [Click here](#)

Click [here](#) to see the interim financial report



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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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**.

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRAL007 - Albania - Floods

Timeframe: 09 Dec 17 to 09 Mar 18

Appeal Launch Date: 09 Dec 17

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2017/12-2018/01	Programme	MDRAL007
Budget Timeframe	2017/12-2018/03	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		222,915				222,915	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		222,915				222,915	
C4. Other Income		222,915				222,915	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		222,915				222,915	
D. Total Funding = B + C		222,915				222,915	

* 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		222,915				222,915	
E. Expenditure		-113,912				-113,912	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		109,003				109,003	

Disaster Response Financial Report

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Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2017/12-2018/01	Programme	MDRAL007
Budget Timeframe	2017/12-2018/03	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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)						222,915		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	62,600						62,600	
Food	76,000						76,000	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	32,000						32,000	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	170,600						170,600	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	8,720						8,720	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,400						2,400	
Logistics Services	5,000						5,000	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	16,120						16,120	
Personnel								
International Staff	3,000						3,000	
National Society Staff	2,880						2,880	
Volunteers	4,350						4,350	
Total Personnel	10,230						10,230	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	8,420						8,420	
Total Workshops & Training	8,420						8,420	
General Expenditure								
Travel	1,000						1,000	
Information & Public Relations	1,800						1,800	
Communications	640						640	
Financial Charges	500						500	
Total General Expenditure	3,940						3,940	
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies			106,960			106,960	-106,960	
Total Contributions & Transfers			106,960			106,960	-106,960	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	13,605		6,952			6,952	6,653	
Total Indirect Costs	13,605		6,952			6,952	6,653	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	222,915		113,912			113,912	109,003	
VARIANCE (C - D)			109,003			109,003		

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Reporting Timeframe	2017/12-2018/01	Programme	MDRAL007
Budget Timeframe	2017/12-2018/03	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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 management	222,915		222,915	222,915	113,912	109,003	
Subtotal BL2	222,915		222,915	222,915	113,912	109,003	
GRAND TOTAL	222,915		222,915	222,915	113,912	109,003	