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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Bosnia and Herzegovina: Extreme winter condition

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRBA007
GLIDE number CW-2012-000006-BIH
6th February 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 76,137 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in Bosnia and Herzegovina in delivering immediate assistance to people most in need (1,568 families) affected by the extreme winter conditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.



Heavy snowfall buried several municipalities and blocked access to several villages.
Photo: RC Bosnia and Herzegovina

Summary: Due to extremely low temperatures followed by a heavy snow-fall, approximately twenty municipalities have been

cut off from the rest of the country. The snow blast started early Thursday, 2nd February 2012 and since then it has continued snowing. The most affected municipalities are Han Pijesak, Sokolac, Čajniče, Srebrenica, Kalinovik, Istocni Stari Grad and Kladanj. Blocked roads, power shortages and broken communication lines made it almost impossible to reach the affected areas. State of emergency for the entire territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been declared on 04th February 2012 on the irregular session of FBiH Government.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBH) has immediately initiated disaster relief action. So far 15 Red Cross staff members and 70 Red Cross volunteers have been engaged.

This operation is expected to be implemented over two months, and will therefore be completed by 12th April 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 12th July 2012).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Temperatures dropping to minus 32.5 Celsius and heavy snowfall have completely isolated several villages in Bosnia and Herzegovina over the past few days.

A state of emergency has been announced in the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina because of the natural disaster. The weather forecasts have predicted that the cold weather and snow blast will continue for the next few days as well, potentially causing further damages to cities and villages, and also shortages in electricity and blockage of transportation routes.

In six villages until now there has been no electricity for two days and the staff of the electricity company have been working round the clock trying to fix power lines. At the moment, the only way to reach and supply these villages is by rescue helicopters.

Coordination and partnerships

Since the beginning of the emergency situation the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina has, in cooperation with entity level and local RC offices, initiated actions to support people in the snow-blocked villages. Cooperation has been established with the Ministry of Security, local authorities and civil protection services who are working together to rescue people and supply remote villages with food items and medicines. The Red Cross Society is working closely with the media to raise public awareness in regard to the difficult situation in the snow-buried villages and towns.

Also, the RCS has established cooperation with the USAID in order to obtain possible support to the Red Cross disaster relief initiative, under which the USAID may provide support in terms of non-food items contribution. The Swiss Red Cross also expressed interest in supporting the initiative.

The office of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Sarajevo and the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina are closely working together on the disaster relief action. The operation will be implemented through the Red Cross branches in the affected areas supported by the RC volunteers who will have the task to deliver the emergency relief assistance.

The RCS BH is actively participating in meetings organised at the national level regarding the emergency. It is important to note that all activities will be implemented in coordination with the state authorities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been actively involved in improving its capacities regarding Disaster Management, in particular emergency situations. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the BiH's Ministry of Security ensuring the RCNS's membership in the national working group responsible for making decisions in time of natural and man-made disasters.

Furthermore, the National Society's mobile teams are trained and ready to act in emergency situations together with the Red Cross volunteers from the local branches.

Shortly after the announcement of the state of emergency, the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina initiated actions to support the affected people in remote villages by supplying them with basic food items and medicines from the existing Red Cross stocks.

Unfortunately, the Red Cross emergency stock was not enough to cover the needs of all affected people. Preliminary assessment has been done by the local RC branches' volunteers and secretaries.

The needs

Based on the preliminary assessment made so far, the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina has prepared the list of affected families and identified the most vulnerable residents among families in need of support. So far 15 Red Cross staff members and 70 Red Cross volunteers have been engaged in the operation.

According to preliminary assessment (03/02/2012) the needs in the affected areas are as follows.

Locality	Number of affected families
Republika Srpska entity	
Srebrenica (Luka, Krusev Do, Bozici)	135
Han Pijesak (Brložnik, Podkozlovaca, Mrkov)	30
Sokolac (Sokolovici, Kaostica, Bare)	100
Cajnice (Zaborak, Baotici, Zune)	250
Istocni Stari Grad (Trebevic, Hresa, Bulozii)	120
Kalinovik (Plocnik, Obrnja, Trnovica)	80
Total	715
Federation of B&H	
Unsko-sanski canton (Cazin – Pecigrad, Bosanska Krupa – Badic)	150
Posavski canton (part of Orasje)	15
Tuzlanski canton (Kladanj)	300
Zenicko-dobojski canton (Krajisici – Olovo, Borovica - Vares)	95
Bosansko-podrinjski canton (larger part of Canton)	60
Canton Sarajevo (Trnovo, Sabici, Nišićka Visoravan)	105
Srednjobosanski canton (Novi Travnik – parts, Gornji Vakuf, Bugojno)	60
Hercegovacko-neretvanski canton	40
Canton No.10 (Glamoč, Drvar, Kupres)	28
Total	853
Grand total	1,568

Food and hygiene items, blankets, firewood and warm clothes have been identified as urgent needs followed by materials needed for the repair of the snow-hit buildings. According to preliminary data 1,568 families are identified in need of Red Cross support.

The proposed operation

With the proposed operation the Red Cross intends to provide the affected families with complementary food parcels (one distribution) in order to cover their basic alimentary needs for a period of ten days. The distribution will be complemented with a distribution of one blanket per each affected family. More blankets may be supplied with USAID support, or a second DREF allocation may be considered by the National Society in order to cover the needs of the affected families.

Item	No. of units
Food (food parcel containing: wheat flour 3 kg, cooking oil 2 l, sugar 2 kg, pasta 1 kg, rice 1 kg, beans 1 kg, canned meat, and salt)	1,568
Blankets	1,568

Table 1: Most urgent needs among the affected population as identified by the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina

One RDRT member will be deployed to support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the implementation of the operation.

At the end of the operation, a workshop will be held for Red Cross staff and volunteers to share best practices and lessons learned, to update the National Society contingency plan and further improve its disaster management capacity.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Providing emergency assistance (basic food and non-food items) to 1,568 families (approximately 5,488 people) a one time distribution of basic food and non-food items will be done

Output: The needs of 1568 families are met.

Activities planned:

- Coordination with local emergency departments and social welfare authorities.
- Preparation of final beneficiary lists.
- Preparation of distribution plan.
- Procurement of emergency items in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Distribution of emergency items by RC branches and their volunteers according to the prepared beneficiary lists (as per table above).
- Beneficiaries will be notified regarding the time of distribution.
- Monitoring and reporting.

The National Society's Headquarters, in close cooperation with the IFRC Country Representation, will monitor the progress and provide the necessary technical expertise. Visibility of the work of the Red Cross volunteers will be ensured during the operation through the local media. Weekly operation updates will be sent to the IFRC Europe Zone Office.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Dušan Kulušić, Secretary General, phone: +387 33 263 936, email: secretary_general@rcsbh.org
- **IFRC Country Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Michele Rezza Sanchez, Country Representative, phone: +387 33 264 135; email: michele.rezzasanchez@ifrc.org
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Click here

1. To see the DREF operation Budget [below](#)
2. To see the Map of the affected area [below](#)
3. [here](#) to return to the title page

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.
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DREF OPERATION

06/02/2012

MDRBA007 Bosnia and Herzegovina: Extreme Winter Condition

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	27,440
Food	33,000
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	60,440
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	2,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	2,000
International Staff	1,500
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	950
Volunteers	
Total PERSONNEL	2,450
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	3,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	3,000
Travel	1,000
Information & Public Relations	1,500
Office Costs	200
Communications	500
Financial Charges	400
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	3,600
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	4,647
Total INDIRECT COSTS	4,647
TOTAL BUDGET	76,137



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