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## DREF operation update Bosnia and Herzegovina: Extreme winter condition

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRBA007**  
**GLIDE n° CW-2012-000006-BIH**  
**Update n°1**  
**15<sup>th</sup> 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.

Period covered by this update: 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

**Summary: CHF 76,137 was initially allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross Society in Bosnia and Herzegovina in rendering immediate assistance to the beneficiaries.** Due to the continuation of the adverse weather conditions and newly arisen needs, however, the National Society has revised its operational plans together with its [budget](#). The revised budget for this operation

amounts to **CHF 188,723**. Based on the recent reports from the Red Cross staff and volunteers working in the field, **a total of 3,449 families (approximately 11,000 people)** will be targeted throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.



Red Cross staff delivering relief items.  
Photo: Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Due to extremely low temperatures followed by heavy snowfalls, approximately twenty municipalities have been cut off from the rest of the country. The snow blast started early Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 and the snowing continued for almost 24 hours. According to the meteorological institutions, the snow in the mountains is 255 cm deep in Bjelasnica and 218 cm deep in Cemerno. In the area of Kalinovik, Srebrenica, Livno, Tomislavgrad, and East Herzegovina, snowdrifts lie about three metres high due to the strong wind.

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The situation was worsened when the snowing continued in the southern part of the country, and a 110 KV electric transmission pillar line was damaged by the heavy snow and the strong winds. As a result, approximately 15,000 people were left without power for seven days in the area of Herzegovina Neretva Canton, in particular in the cities of Mostar and Neum. The electricity cut-off has led to the lack of heating among the affected population, because they would mainly use electric heating systems. The communication system is also experiencing problems, since the service provider permits only emergency calls. Blocked roads, power shortages and broken communication lines are still making it difficult to reach the affected areas.

The most affected municipalities are Han Pijesak, Sokolac, Čajniče, Srebrenica, Kalinovik, Istocni Stari Grad, and Kladanj. People in remote villages are running out of firewood, and it is impossible to get fresh supplies due to the extremely deep snow.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBH) has immediately initiated disaster relief action. In total, 725 Red Cross staff and volunteers are engaged in the supply of people by providing basic food items and medicines. All activities are coordinated with the State's Civil Protection Service.

The major donors and partners of the DREF operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina include the Australian, American and Belgian Governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and the Canadian Government, the Danish Red Cross and the Danish Government, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the Irish and the Italian Governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg Government, the Monaco Red Cross and the Monaco Government, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Netherlands Government, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Norwegian Government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and the Swedish Government, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. On behalf of the National Society, the IFRC would like to extend their thanks to all of them for their generous contributions.

## The situation

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is getting more and more serious due to the heavy snowfall and the low temperatures.

According to the report from the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina dated on February 11<sup>th</sup>, the activities are conducted at full capacity to provide food and medicine for the most affected areas. Permanent cooperation with the Operational Centre of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and EUFOR continues. A state of emergency has been declared in the affected municipalities.

The following activities have been started for the assistance of population in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A) In cooperation with the Armed Forces of BH:

- Deployment of clearing equipment in Liva and Sutina (ULT 160 and one truck), as well as clearing roads in Mostar city,
- A helicopter flight carrying 11 people and food supply to Kalinovik was grounded due to strong wind. The Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina cancelled all flight requests on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

B) In cooperation with EUFOR:

- Helicopter delivery due to the high exposure of the population in Canton 10. The town of Tomislavgrad is cut off, and there is no possibility to approach the town by road. 150 packages are ready to be delivered by helicopter to the towns of Livno, Drvar, Glamoč, Kupres, Tomislavgrad and Bosansko Grahovo. One person had to be evacuated for medical reasons, from Ravne village to Kupres.
- Air MEDEVAC of one person from Gornja Ljubuča – Konjic for Sarajevo. Urgent surgery needed.
- Helicopter delivery of food and medication to a family in Kruzima on the Mount Cincar, Livno municipality, which has been isolated for seven days.

Primary and secondary schools will be kept closed all week.

The weather forecasts have predicted that the cold weather and snowing would continue for the next few days as well, potentially causing further damages to cities and villages, the also shortages in electricity and blockage of transportation routes.

Due to the low temperatures and the lack of heating, eight people died of hypothermia so far.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina has, in cooperation with the Republika Srpska Entity and BH RC offices, initiated actions to support people in the snow-blocked villages since the onset of the emergency situation.

The Secretary General of the Red Cross Society is a member of the State Coordination Board, chaired by the Ministry of Security, to ensure proper coordination of all activities of the civil protection services. At the level of the entities, the Red Cross Entity secretaries are members of the Boards that are responsible for operational activities in both entities. Those operational activities are implemented by joint forces of the Civil Protection Service and the Red Cross organizations. The Boards would have regular sessions in order to follow up the situation in the field. At the local level, the secretaries of the local Red Cross organisations are also cooperating with Civil Protection and are engaged in field operations. At this level, Red Cross volunteers are also involved.

The Red Cross is working closely with the media to raise public awareness in regard to the difficult situation in the cut-off villages and towns.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the IFRC Representative in Sarajevo have established direct contact with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and are receiving regular reports on the situation. The approved DREF bulletin was also shared with the Ministry of Security and other partners including the ECHO. The National Society's Head Office sent out a request for support to all foreign Embassies in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Also, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina has established cooperation with the USAID in order to obtain possible support for the Red Cross disaster relief initiative. It is still not finalized how USAID will support the action, but their support might be hygiene parcels and other non-food items.

The Swiss Red Cross supported the Red Cross action with 700 food parcels for Tuzla area. The Embassy of Norway contributed to the Red Cross action by donating BAM 70,000 (EUR 35,000) in terms of cash. That will be used for purchasing hygienic parcels and auditing costs. According to the latest agreement, the Embassy of Norway will donate some additional funds as well; the process of negotiation is still going on so as to define the exact amounts and the purpose.

The Red Cross Society has established cooperation with the Embassy of the People's Republic China and a memorandum was signed for the donation of BAM 10,000 (EUR 5,000) to support the Red Cross actions in the affected areas. The UNHCR offered its resources (4 trucks and drivers + fuel costs) for the distribution of humanitarian aid to affected population. The actual distribution costs are at CHF 13,800. With that UNHCR support, distribution costs have been covered up to CHF 8,800, so an amount of CHF 5,000 is still needed.

As a result of the press conference, organised by the National Society, the Embassy of France contacted the Bosnia and Herzegovina Red Cross to investigate possible bilateral cooperation and provide support.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Due to the difficult and deteriorating weather conditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the number of affected people has increased. The Red Cross Society is closely following up on the situation. Based on the reports and other information received from the staff in the field, the total number of beneficiaries targeted by the revised DREF operation will be a total of 3,449 families (around 11,000 people). The beneficiaries are selected according to the following criteria:

- Older individuals living alone (1,985 persons/families)
- People living with disabilities (183 families)
- Families with small children (618 families)
- Alone standing mothers (212 families)
- Returnees, refugees and displaced persons (451 families)

According to Red Cross assessment, the needs of the affected people are for food, hygienic parcels, blankets, warm clothes, and firewood. With the help of the bilateral donations, the Red Cross is planning to purchase hygienic parcels, blankets, warm clothes, while additional food parcels for 1,881 families and beech briquettes/firewood for 1,989 families will be purchased from the revised DREF allocation.

Item	No. of units
Food parcels	1,881
Beech briquettes (1,989 families) x15 packages per family	29,835

The beech briquettes will be distributed in the area of Herzegovina Canton, East Gorazde, East Ilidza, Berkovici,, Trnovo, Rogatica, Foca, Zenica-Doboj Canton, Central Bosnia Canton, and Canton 10.

*The following table presents the needs of people in the affected areas and the Red Cross Society action plan how to cover their needs.*

Cantons/Municipalities	Affected families	Food parcels	Hygiene parcels	Blankets	Families in need of firewood
<b>Federation of BiH (RCFBiH)</b>					
Unsko Sanski canton	200	200	125	125	120
Posavina canton	100	100	100	100	100
Tuzlanski canton	150	150	225	225	220
Zenica-Doboj canton	200	200	200	200	200
Bos. Podrinje canton	200	200	125	125	125
Srednje-Bosanski canton	200	200	275	275	229
HN canton	150	150	225	225	225
Zapadno-Herceg. Canto	50	50	75	75	75
Canton Sarajevo	200	200	275	275	275
Canton 10 Livno	400	400	225	225	225
<b>Total</b>	<b>1850</b>	<b>1850</b>	<b>1850</b>	<b>1850</b>	<b>1794</b>
<b>Republika Srpska (RCRS)</b>					
Berkovici	250	250	250	150	25
Istoča Ilidža	60	60	60	60	30
Istočno Novo Sarajevo	380	200	200	200	20
Trnovo	50	50	50	50	10
Pale	80	80	80	80	10
Rogatica	42	42	42	40	20
Novo Goražde	107	107	107	107	30
Foča	250	250	250	250	50

Nevesinje	100	100	100	100	0
Gacko	80	80	80	80	0
Bileća	150	150	150	150	0
Istočni Mostar	50	50	50	50	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1599</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>1317</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>TOTAL needs (RCFBIH+RCRS)</b>	<b>3449</b>	<b>3449</b>	<b>3449</b>	<b>3167</b>	<b>1989</b>
<b>Support provided through</b>					
RC storages		0	554	500	0
DREF initial		1568	0	1568	0
DREF update		1881	0	0	1989
<b>Total families covered</b>		<b>3449</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>2068</b>	<b>1989</b>

In total, 725 Red Cross volunteers are engaged in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina to take active part in the operation. With the help of the DREF allocation, proper equipment (winter outfit: jackets, boots, etc.) will be purchased for those volunteers who do not possess appropriate clothing to be able to reach beneficiaries in the areas blocked by the snow.

## Progress towards outcomes

<b>Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)</b>
<b>Objective: Providing emergency assistance (basic food and non-food items) to 3,449 families (approximately 11,000 people), one time distribution of basic food and non-food items will be done</b>
<b>Output: The needs of 3,449 families are met</b>
<b>Activities planned:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with local emergency departments and social welfare authorities.</li> <li>• Preparation of final beneficiary lists.</li> <li>• Preparation of distribution plan.</li> <li>• Procurement of emergency items in Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>• Distribution of emergency items by RC branches and their volunteers according to the prepared beneficiary lists.</li> <li>• Monitoring and reporting.</li> <li>• Beneficiaries will be notified regarding the time of distribution</li> </ul>

### Progress:

The Red Cross of Mostar municipality participated in the coordinated action organized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to free trapped buses and passenger cars from the tunnel Salakovac – Drežnica because the road was blocked by an avalanche. Red Cross staff provided hot drinks, meals and blankets. Also, in cooperation with the Ministry of Security and EUFOR helicopter units, The Red Cross of Mostar has provided food parcels for villages of Raska Gora, Jasenjani, Vrda, Đubrani.

Starting from February 3rd, the Red Cross of Tuzla Canton established a round-the clock duty service in nine municipal RC organizations (Banovici, Gracanica, Gradacac, Kalesija, Lukavac, Sapna, Srebrenikm Tuzla and Zivinice) in order to respond to the needs of people living in distant areas cut off by the snow. 28 employees and 124 volunteers are engaged in the supply people with basic food items and medicines. All activities are coordinated with Civil Protection Service.

The volunteers of Red Cross are engaged in Sarajevo Canton in the delivery of hot meals from public kitchens to elderly and handicapped people, also providing hot drinks and meals to beneficiaries and homeless people. The Red Cross in the Municipality Stari Grad has put up some homeless in their offices, providing them hot meals and hot drinks.

In cooperation with the Civil Protection Service and helicopters of BiH Army forces Red Cross has provided 40 food parcels and diapers for babies in the area of Gacko village.

In four days`time, the Red Cross of Republika Srpska provided 250 food and hygiene parcels for people in the areas of Romanija, Sokolac, Han Pijesak, Cajnice and Kalinovik. The relief was distributed with the support of Civil Protection and thje helicopter service of Republika Srpska.

Red Cross employees and volunteers are doing their utmost to provide assistance to the vulnerable people. In that context 625 volunteers and RC employees are engaged in the territory of Federation BiH (Sarajevo Canton 191, Tuzla Canton 162, Posavina Canton 16, Zenica-Doboj Canton 234, Gorazde 12, Livno 10) and 100 in the territory of Republika Srpska (Municipalities of Gacko 11, Bileca 16, Nevesinje 11, Berkovici 11, Srebrenica 9, Bratunac 8, Pale 19 and Modrica 15). In total, 725 Red Cross volunteers are engaged in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In order to directly reach the beneficiaries as soon as possible, the Red Cross decided that the suppliers would transport the items to the Red Cross storages at three locations: Tuzla, Visoko and Pale. Those places are in the centre of the most affected areas, and from those storages the Red Cross will perform the re-distribution to the final destinations. In the area of Cajnice, Tomislavgrad, and Kalinovik, the micro-distribution will be done in cooperation with the Civil Protection Service, since most roads are still not cleared and Red Cross volunteers will deliver humanitarian items to the final beneficiaries.

#### **Challenges:**

Due to the fact that most roads could still not be cleared from the snow because of the low temperatures, it is still very difficult to reach some remote villages and beneficiaries. The staff is trying to reach the beneficiaries on foot or with the support of helicopters. Strong winds, though, hinder the distribution process in some areas. One of the helicopters of BiH Army forces even crashed while delivering relief to beneficiaries in the area of Kalinovik. Fortunately no personal injuries happened.

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## **Contact information**

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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## **DREF history:**

This DREF was initially allocated on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 to the amount of CHF 76,137 for two months to assist 1,568 families in need. The budget of the DREF operation was extended and the DREF allocation for CHF 112,586 was formally signed off on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012. This brings the total allocation to CHF 188,723 and the total number of beneficiaries to 3,449 families.

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1. Revised DREF budget [below](#)
  2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
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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.
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# DREF OPERATION

05/02/2012

MDRBA007 Bosnia and Herzegovina: Extreme Winter Condition

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	27,440
Food	76,263
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	49,327
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>153,030</b>
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	5,000
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>5,000</b>
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	7,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	
Logistics Services	
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>7,000</b>
International Staff	1,500
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	950
Volunteers	725
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>3,175</b>
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	3,000
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>3,000</b>
Travel	2,000
Information & Public Relations	1,850
Office Costs	400
Communications	1,000
Financial Charges	750
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>6,000</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	11,518
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>11,518</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>188,723</b>