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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Extreme winter condition

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRMK001 GLIDE n° CW-2012-000006-MKD 9th 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 92,668 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Macedonian Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to 1,300 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Extreme cold and snowfall in the past two weeks have caused many problems in nine regions in Macedonia. On 8th February, more than 80 villages were reported to be totally isolated because of the snow. Governmental institutions are working on clearing the roads.

The Macedonian Red Cross has undertaken to respond immediately by meeting the basic needs of the vulnerable population through the distribution of hot meals, warm clothing and blankets. Several branches of Red Cross with their rescue teams are providing necessary help (food and medicine) to those trapped in the mountain villages. The Red Cross branch in Skopje has opened its centre for homeless people on a 24/7 basis, and it is providing services and distributing relief items.

This operation is expected to be implemented over period of two months, and will therefore be completed by 8th April 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 8th June 2012).

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



Macedonian Red Cross volunteers offering hot beverages during the cold wave. Photo: Macedonian Red Cross Society

The situation

The unusually cold winter weather conditions that affected Macedonia in the form of heavy snowfalls and extremely low temperatures at minus 25 degrees Celsius in some places have resulted in numerous traffic problems especially in rural areas, and caused shortages of food supply and medical assistance. Residents are exposed to hunger and frosts, especially the homeless people.

Due to heavy snowfalls, low temperatures and strong winds, many mountain villages are cut off from electricity. There are problems with water supply in the following towns: Bitola, Tetovo, Negotino Kavadarci and Kumanovo.

Due to the deep snow, several thousand sheep and cattle are directly threatened in some parts of Macedonia. In the region of Tetovo, high number of people affected by flu has been registered in the period from 30.01 to 05.02.2012. A total number of 133 people were in need for medical assistance, 44 persons aged 0 to 4 years, 57 people aged 4 to 14 years, 31 people aged 15 to 64 years and 1 person over 65 years

The situation with snow drifts is alarming in the following regions: Skopje (15 villages), Veles (9 villages), Debar (15 villages), Bitola (12 villages), Struga (22 villages), Prilep M.Brod (16 villages), Berovo (17 villages), Tetovo (25 villages) and Gostivar (21 villages). All mountain villages in Macedonia are already buried under snow, and according to the latest information from the field 80 of them are completely cut off. In the capital city, Skopje, the most vulnerable homeless people receive hot meals and drinks, and places are opened for them where they can warm up.

Those state institutions and agencies, which are part of crisis management system, are mobilized and actively working to restore conditions back to normal for the citizens in Macedonia. Most of the local institutions are considering the measure that schools will be closed until the situation gets more stable.

Coordination and partnerships

The secretaries of local Red Cross branches across Macedonia are members of the local Crisis management centres and are participating in planning, coordination and decision making related to the efforts to combat the effects of harsh weather. During the coordination meetings the situation was evaluated and certain measures were taken to reduce the possible consequences of the cold wave.

At national level the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry for Communication and Transport, the Ministry of Environment, the Union of Local Self-Governments, and other public institutions are closely monitoring the situation and are intervening when necessary. At local level, all activities are implemented by the local self-government units, focusing on cleaning the roads and streets from snow and ensuring that medical assistance, evacuation, distribution of water are provided. All the activities are implemented in cooperation with Macedonian Red Cross offices at local and national level.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In coordination with the local authorities, Macedonian Red Cross teams have taken part in the evacuation process of people trapped by the snow in the mountains. (Mountain shelter Karadzica, Mountain Pelister-Bitola, City of Debar, etc.).

In response to the cold wave, the Macedonian National Society has prepared itself to be able to act immediately and to provide assistance to the most vulnerable.

16 Red Cross branches have prepositioned relief items from their emergency stocks. The following items were distributed in the most affected areas to the most vulnerable families.



Red Cross Branch	Number of families	blankets	Food parcels	Winter clothing packages
Skopje	30	120	30	30
Gostivar	10	40	10	10
Bitola	7	28	7	7
Debar	15	60	15	0

Kichevo	10	40	10	10
Struga	12	48	12	12
Strumica	5	20	5	5
Valandovo	11	44	11	11
Gevgelija	3	12	3	0
Kumanovo	15	45	15	4
Veles	10	40	10	8
Kochani	8	32	8	8
Berovo	2	8	2	0
Prilep	13	52	13	10
Vinica	7	28	7	3
Demir Hisar	5	20	5	5
Total:	163	637	163	123

The **Macedonian Red Cross** has prepared and distributed flyers in Macedonian and Albanian languages giving health protection and safety advice on how to protect one's health in such extreme situations, possible health disorders that may appear and first aid actions needed, for example in case of hypothermia and frostbite.

For the homeless and other groups who are particularly vulnerable to weather conditions, a reception centre for homeless is assisting, which is running in the local Red Cross branch in Skopje, supported by two mobile teams to assess the situation of homeless people around the city and provide first aid if needed. The mobile teams are using a Red Cross vehicle and are taking people in need to that centre. A total of 129 homeless people are officially registered in Skopje. 90% of them are using the centre and City Red Cross services.

This centre used to be open for four working hours two days per week. As a response to the cold weather and the increased number of people arriving at the centre and asking for support, it has been decided to keep open the homeless centre 24/7 since 30th January 2012.

The Red Cross has shared this information through media and also asked people to notify the mobile teams and refer them to places, where they can provide support for homeless people.

Until now, 20 people are accommodated at the centre for full time and additional 80 people are using the services and premises of the centre every day. The beneficiaries are given the possibility to take a hot shower, to get a bed, meals and medical services. Due to the increased needs, the centre has to step up its capacities in order to be able to provide the necessary support and respond to the situation.

From 10th February onwards, two station points will be opened in Skopje for the distribution of hot drinks (hot tea and hot soup), at which Red Cross volunteers will assist the people in need during the night.



The needs

Based on the needs assessment conducted by the local Red Cross branches and also on the weather forecast and information provided by the Crisis Management Centre, the Macedonian National Society has decided to target the most vulnerable 300 families (1,200 people) in the mountain villages that are isolated

and cut off. Those are mainly elderly households or older individuals living alone in remote areas with little to no family support, families with small children with low level of income and social security. The following needs have been identified to assist these families:

Items	Quantity
Blankets	1,200
Food parcels	300
Hygiene parcels	300
Rubber boots, pairs of	1,200
Warm winter clothes	1,200
Gloves, pairs of	1,200
Medical & first aid kits	10
Gas heaters	20

At the homeless centre, the Red Cross aims to support 100 homeless people with the provision of hot meals, beverages, and medication if necessary. Therefore the Macedonian National Society is planning to purchase ready-to-eat meals to ensure that the needs of homeless people at the centre are met.

The DREF allocation will contribute to the National Society efforts to serve the needs of the most vulnerable groups with additional distributions to the previous round from the Red Cross own stocks.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Providing emergency assistance (basic food and clothing items) to approximately 300 families and 100 homeless people at the Red Cross Homeless Centre

Output: The food and hygiene needs of the most vulnerable 1,300 people will be met through distribution of food and non-food items and clothes.

Activities planned:

- Conduct needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

The contents of one food parcel are as follows (for one family for a period of one month):

Items	Contents of one parcel
Wheat flour	6 kg
Canned food (fish)	8 cans
Sugar	2 kg
Cooking oil	4 l
Salt	1 kg
Rice	2 kg
Pasta	2 packs
Packing box	1

The contents of one hygiene parcel are as follows (for one family for a period of one month):

Items	Contents of one parcel
Machine washing powder	1.5 kg
Hand washing detergent	1.5 kg
Soap	2 pieces
Shampoo	1 l
Tooth paste	2 pieces
Packing box	1

The Macedonian Red Cross Headquarters, in close cooperation with IFRC Europe Zone office, 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:

- **Macedonian Red Cross:**
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Click here

1. DREF budget is available [here](#)
2. Map of the affected area is available [here](#)
3. Click [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

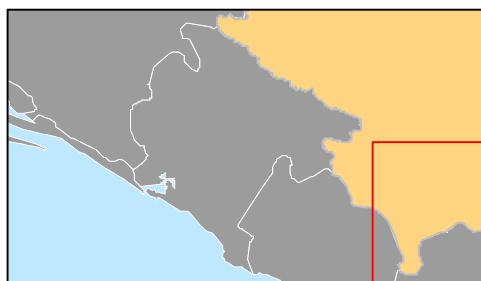
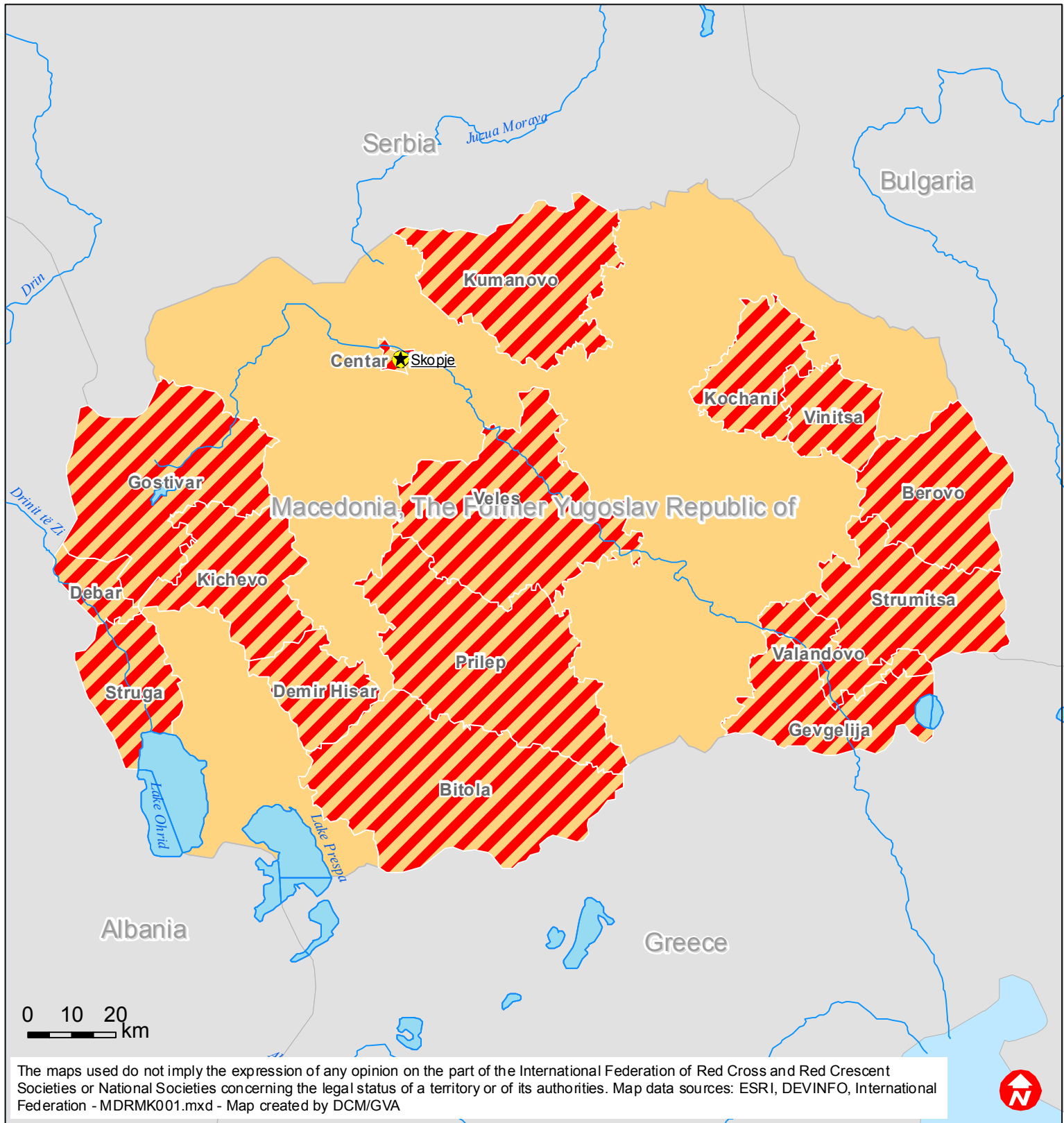
08/02/2012


MDRMK001 Macedonia: Extreme Winter Condition

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	55,200
Food	9,600
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	3,900
Medical & First Aid	1,150
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	3,000
Other Supplies & Services	2,000
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	74,850
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,115
Logistics Services	400
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	4,515
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	6,610
Volunteers	200
Total PERSONNEL	6,810
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	
Information & Public Relations	
Office Costs	737
Communications	100
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	837
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	5,656
Total INDIRECT COSTS	5,656
TOTAL BUDGET	92,668



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 Relief distribution by Red Cross