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DREF operation update

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
Update n°1
24th 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: 9th to 24th February 2012.



Due to the inaccessible roads in the mountainous areas that were blocked by the snow, the Macedonian Red Cross used alternative means to deliver the relief to the affected population. Photo: Macedonian Red Cross

CHF 92,668 was initially allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Macedonian Red Cross in delivering 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 with a [budget](#) increase of CHF 71,079. **The revised budget for this operation amounts to a total of CHF 163,747.** Based on the recent reports from the Red Cross staff and volunteers working in the field, a further 1,160 families (4,640 people) are in need of assistance, out of these the Red Cross will support 950 families, which brings **the number of beneficiaries to a total of 5,100** throughout the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

The heavy snow falls at the beginning of February 2012 in Macedonia resulted with traffic slowdown, especially in the rural areas. In most of the cities situation has been stabilised, but still there are villages that are cut off in the mountain areas. The main roads are mostly accessible, but on the mountain passes the roads are closed for heavy trucks. Local roads are partially cleaned, but because of the higher temperatures the snow is starting to melt and is additional problem for access.

On the main roads there are still possibilities for avalanches and rock landslides, the roads with high risk are: Debar – Mavrovo, Debar –Struga, Demir Kapija – Udovo, Katlanovo –Veles.

After the approved DREF allocation, the Macedonian Red Cross together with the governmental institutions distributed aid for 300 families, by air (with Ministry of Defense and Ministry for Interior), with 4X4 vehicles, on foot, by ski touring and with horses and donkeys.

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 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 still exposed to hunger and frosts, especially the homeless people and those in remote villages cut off.

Due to heavy snow falls, low temperatures and strong winds, many mountain villages were without electricity and there are problems with water supply in the following towns: Bitola, Tetovo, Negotino Kavadarci and Kumanovo.

The situation with snow drifts was especially 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).

On the main roads there are still possibilities for avalanches and rock landslides, the roads with high risk are: Debar – Mavrovo, Debar –Struga, Demir Kapija – Udovo, Katlanovo –Veles.

Coordination and partnerships

MRC is in constant communication with the governmental institutions. Every day on national level, the Secretary General is attending meetings with representatives from Center for crisis management, Directorate for rescue and protection, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of transport and communications were updated daily information are shared, and further actions are arranged.

On local level, crises headquarters also have daily meetings with the local branches of Red Cross, Center for crisis management, Directorate for rescue and protection, Ministry of Defense, Ministry for Interior, Ministry for Health, Ministry for transport and communication. Their shared information`s are being forwarded to the main HQ on national level and each day are being analyzed and actions are taken.

During the aid distribution Red Cross teams were in constant communication with the regional centers of Center for Crisis Management and on the field a representative was also present. Also they shared information with the National Society about the road situation, so the Red Cross convoy was able to reach every planned destination and even avoid few avalanches.

The Operative Center in Macedonian Red Cross is gathering all daily data from all stakeholders (Governmental institutions, RC Branches), and makes daily analyzes of the current situation.

The software Global Mapper (GIS), which the Operative Centre in the Macedonian Red Cross uses, is available for all other Governmental Institutions. This tool allows analysing the situation and visualising it through creating maps of mountain villages and review of the terrain in 3D.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As the National society is closely following up the situation the local branches have conducted new needs assessment to map the increased needs of the population due to the unexpectedly long severe winter conditions. The results of the assessment revealed that there are still 1,160 families that need aid as their settlements are still in the most affected area and they don't have possibility to purchase the basic items they would need. The target group of this allocation are families, mainly elderly couples who are living in more remote areas.

The families targeted by this second DREF allocation are situated in the following municipalities:

Municipality	Number of families in need of support
Makedonski Brod	200
Kriva Palanka	200
Debar	100
Gostivar	50
Kumanovo (with region Lipkovo)	100
Sv. Nikole	50
Berovo	50
Delchevo	50
Kratovo	50
Demir Hisar	50
Tetovo	60
City Skopje	100
Kicevo	50
Veles	50
Total	1,160

Additionally, Austrian Red Cross approved humanitarian aid for 210 families. Therefore this additional DREF allocation will provide support to 950 families (out of the 1,160 families), which are 3,800 beneficiaries. The previous DREF allocation targeted 1,300 beneficiaries. The total number of beneficiaries has been increased to 5,100 people.

The following needs of these families will be addressed by the Red Cross in Macedonia:

Items	Quantity
blankets	1900
Food parcels	950
Hygiene parcels	950

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	2 kg
Rice	2 kg
Pasta	4 packs
Packing box	1

Recent assessment and beneficiary feedback proved that less wheat flour is needed but instead of that more oil and pasta will be procured. Consequently the content of the food parcel have been slightly modified in the second DREF allocation. The price of the parcel did not change as the costs of the pasta and oil covered the variance.

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

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Providing emergency assistance (basic food and clothing items) to approximately 1,250 families (300 families who were already assisted and additional 950 families) and 100 homeless people at the Red Cross Homeless Centre, so covering the needs of 5,100 beneficiaries

Output: The food and hygiene needs of the most vulnerable 5,100 people will be met through distribution of food and non-food items and clothes. Out of 1,250 families 300 have been assisted already with the first DREF allocation.

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.

Progress:

After the approved DREF allocation the Macedonian Red Cross immediately started to develop the beneficiary targeting strategy and mobilised its resources to be able to deliver the needed items. The National Society provided the relief items to the 300 families (approximately 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.

At the homeless centre support to the 100 homeless people with the provision of hot meals and beverages is still continuing due to the long lasting winter weather and as long as there is a need for this.

Distribution by air was organised with the support of the Ministry of Defence to the most remote and isolated villages. Also the Red Cross volunteers participated in the distribution with 4X4 vehicles, on foot, by ski touring and with horses and donkeys.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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DREF history:

This DREF was initially allocated on 9th February 2012 to the amount of CHF 92,668 for two months to assist 1,300 people in need. The budget of the DREF operation was extended and the DREF allocation for CHF 71,079 was formally signed off on 24th February 2012. This brings the total allocation to CHF 163,747 and the total number of beneficiaries to 5,100 beneficiaries.



Click here

1. Revised DREF budget **[below](#)**
2. 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

23/02/2012

Macedonia Extreme Winter Condition

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	76,100
Food	32,400
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	16,250
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	130,900
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	3,374
Transport & Vehicle Costs	7,115
Logistics Services	1,400
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	11,889
International Staff	600
National Staff	
National Society Staff	8,290
Volunteers	200
Total PERSONNEL	9,090
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	
Information & Public Relations	
Office Costs	1,474
Communications	400
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	1,874
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	9,994
Total INDIRECT COSTS	9,994
TOTAL BUDGET	163,747