

DREF Final report

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Extreme Winter Conditions

DREF operation n°MDRMK001 GLIDE n°CW-2012-000006-MKD 9th August 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of unearmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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.

Summary: CHF 92,668 had been allocated originally from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 9th February 2012 to support the Macedonian Red Cross in delivering assistance to some 1,300 beneficiaries, and to replenish the disaster preparedness stocks. However, the National Society revised its operational plan in view of the evolving situation with a budget increase of CHF 71,079 (Update n°1, 24th February 2012). The revised budget for this operation amounted to a total of CHF 163,747, reaching 5,100 beneficiaries.

The Macedonian Red Cross delivered goods (food parcels, hygiene parcels, blankets, rubber boots, and warm clothes) in most cases directly

to the affected population. The Macedonian National Emergency Response Unit (NERU) provided assistance in some cases to the local branches for better and faster distribution, and the Macedonian Red Cross also cooperated with the Ministry of Defence by using military air transport. The rest of the items were delivered by those Red Cross local branches which had capacities and vehicles available for that purpose. The distribution was conducted by air and 4X4 cars as well as on donkeys and horses, on skis and on foot. Approximately 200 volunteers were involved in this operation in the whole country. The expectations towards the beneficiaries were high, because the target group mainly comprised elderly people in separate households or families with small children with low income and low social security background. The relief items they received helped them to overcome the situation caused by the extreme winter conditions.

All in all, the operation was well implemented with mainly foreseen challenges that could be handled. The local branches were closely cooperating with the local governmental institutions, and provided information on a daily basis to the National Society Headquarters. The Macedonian Red Cross also closely cooperated on the national level with the institutions that are part of the disaster management system.



In February 2012 the Macedonian Red Cross was distributing relief items to beneficiaries in cut-off villages. On snow-blocked roads, Red Cross teams used horses for transport. **Photo: Macedonian Red Cross**

After earlier other crises in Macedonia, the Red Cross now had a chance for the first time to manage the disaster response operation with international support (DREF) and to organize a relief operation in the whole country. This was achieved with the continuous support of the local Red Cross branches and through their capacities, network and willingness to take actions. Local branch teams were involved in distributing aid and in visiting old people in remote villages to check on their health and general situation. Totally 5,108 beneficiaries or 1,310 families were covered by this relief operation and another 100 homeless people in the capital city of Skopje. At first 300 families (1,200 beneficiaries) and 100 homeless people in the Red Cross Homeless Centre in Skopje were supported, and due to the continuous extreme weather conditions additional 950 families were reached.

The Canadian Red Cross and Canadian International Development Agency contributed CHF 20,000 to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. After finalizing operations there is a final balance of CHF 619 that will be returned to the DREF funds.

The major donors and partners of DREF 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 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 Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the Red Cross Society of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, would like to extend their thanks to all donors and partners for their generous contributions. Details of all donors can be found at http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MAA00010_2012.pdf

[<click here for contact details; here to see the DREF final financial report>](#)

The situation

Heavy snowfalls and extreme winter conditions affected the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in early January 2012, and the situation worsened in February, causing numerous traffic problems especially in rural areas, and shortages of food supply and medical assistance. The most alarming situation was created in the following regions of the country: 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). Additionally, in the capital city of Skopje, the most vulnerable homeless people were assisted with hot meals and drinks, and a reception centre for the homeless was opened, which was operated by 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. There were 300 families supported at the first stage, meaning 1,300 beneficiaries together with the homeless people in Skopje.

As the first actions had started, and the distribution was in its final phase for these beneficiaries, the Macedonian Red Cross conducted a second, more detailed assessment, which showed that the situation had escalated and the total number of affected families went up to 1,160, from which 210 were covered with the aid donated by the Austrian Red Cross. The latest and even more detailed assessment reported the total number of families in need for relief at 1,250 families (5,100 beneficiaries).

Through the relief items (food, hygiene parcels, and warm clothes) provided immediately, the National Society directly contributed to reduce the incidence of malnutrition and illnesses among the residents.

The National Society's visibility and image were strengthened due to the fact that during some activities, journalists were also present and were covering the Macedonian Red Cross activities. This operation enhanced the cooperation with the governmental institutions on both national and local levels, especially with the local municipalities, which act resulted in higher community resilience. On national level this operation also contributed to the cooperation and coordination with the stakeholders from the national crisis management systems.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In coordination with the national authorities, Macedonian Red Cross staff and volunteers participated in the evacuation process of people trapped in the deep snow in the mountain shelter of Karadzica on the Mount Pelister-Bitola, City of Debar. Information materials (flyers) about the cold wave were prepared and distributed in all local branches in both Macedonian and Albanian languages.

Red Cross Skopje's centre for homeless people is usually open for four working hours two days per week. However, as a response to the cold weather and the increased number of people arriving at the centre and asking for support, it was decided that time to keep the homeless centre open 24/7 during the period from 30th January until 31st March 2012.

From the emergency stocks, the following relief items were distributed to the mentioned Red Cross branches:

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

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

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

Outputs (expected results): 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 the 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 towards achievements

After the allocation of the DREF funds, in accordance with the conducted assessment, the following relief items were distributed ([please click here to see the detailed list of distributions](#)):

Distributed items	Quantity distributed
Food parcels, piece	1,147
Hygiene parcels, piece	1,147
Rubber boots, pair	1,132
Gloves, pair	1,132
Blankets, piece	2,850
Warm winter clothes, piece	1,053
Gas heaters, piece	10

During the planned distributions of the relief items, the Macedonian Red Cross Headquarters assisted the local branches in some cases in delivering the goods, mostly because they didn't have enough capacities (cross-country vehicles, and specially trained volunteers). The table in the annex shows also in which cases Headquarters Emergency Response Unit (HQ – ERU) assisted the local branches.

Challenges:

While conducting the distribution in Debar region, the team had to face an unexpected emergency, helping an old woman who had a minor leg injury. As the regular ambulance was not able to reach the village, the team had to provide first aid to the patient and then she was evacuated and hospitalized.

During the distribution, the Macedonian Red Cross teams were regularly facing physical challenges, given the harsh winter weather conditions. During the first round of the distribution, the team came across an avalanche on the regional road Debar-Struga, but owing to the good communication with the Crisis Management Center of Debar Branch, and to the quick reaction of the local authorities, the road was cleared soon partially so that one lane became passable, therefore additional delays were avoided during that action.

During the operation, as the weather conditions were changing during the night, the distribution teams were prepared for any unexpected circumstances and events with back-up plans. Usually after coordination with the local branches, and local authorities, and after receiving confirmation that the beneficiaries had supplies for some more days, and there weren't any emergencies, the teams went on with their back-up plan to finalize the distribution. Therefore the original plan of action was revised after each distribution and adapted to the changing situation.

The inaccessible roads were also a big challenge. In Kriva Palanka, few kilometers before reaching the final destination, the road in the mountains was completely cut off (snow several meters deep), so the Red Cross volunteers were clearing the road with shovels.

“Lessons learned” workshop:

The National Society also used the opportunity provided by the DREF operation to organize a series of “lessons learned” workshops. This contributed to assessing the existing capacities within the National Society and its local branches related to disaster management. In the last weeks of the operation, the Macedonian Red Cross organized three trainings for its volunteers on disaster management that covered the following topics:

- Disasters: what do we know about them? What should we do before, after and during a disaster?
- Needs assessment
- Field assessment
- Case studies (DREF operation 2012, floods in Chento Municipality 2006, forest fires in 2007 etc.)
- Relief operations (planning and conducting relief distributions)

During the three trainings 60 new volunteers participated, and 30 experienced volunteers used the opportunity to refresh their knowledge about disaster management.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Macedonian Red Cross:**
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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 revised and the second 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 5,108.



[Click here](#)

1. Click [here](#) to see the final IFRC financial report and the National Society financial report
 2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
 3. Click [here](#) to see the Annex about the detailed list of distributed items
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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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Saving lives, changing minds.



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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Annex 1

			Food Parcels	Hygiene parcels	Rubber boots	Gloves	Blankets	Warm winter clothes	Gas heaters	Affected families	Beneficiaries
Organization	Distribution	location (high mountain villages)									
		Input	1250	1250	1200	1200	3100	1200	10		
BO Red Cross Struga	Local Distribution + NERU **	Jablanica and G.Belica	40	40	0	0	80	10	0	40	170
BO Red Cross Ohrid	Local Distribution + NERU **	Belcista, Lesani, Zlesti	20	20	0	0	40	10	0	20	72
BO Red Cross Debar	Local Distribution + NERU **	Tresonce, Osoj, Gorno Kosovrasti, Gari, Mogorce	70	70	0	0	240	10	0	60	252
BO Red Cross M. Brod	Local Distribution + NERU **	G. Krusje D. Krusje Slatina	70	70	0	0	210	10	0	70	210
BO Red Cross K. Palanka	Local Distribution + NERU **	Luke, Podzikonj, German, Radibush, Opila, Petralica, Metzevo, Krstovdol, Gradec, Krklja, Trnovo, Ogut, Nevur	196	196	0	0	578	10	0	196	768
BO Red Cross Bitola	Local Distribution	Braneneica	15	15	0	0	30	10	0	15	58
BO Red Cross D.Hisar	Local Distribution	Velmevci,	20	20	0	0	40	10	0	20	72
BO Red Cross Veles	Local Distribution	Vetersko, Drenovo, Melnica, D. Jabolciste	20	20	0	0	80	10	0	20	73
BO Red Cross Sv Nikole	Local Distribution	Nemanjici, Pavlesence	15	15	0	0	30	10	0	15	53
BO Red Cross Vinica	Local Distribution	Gradec, Blatec	15	15	0	0	30	10	0	15	47
BO Red Cross Valandovo	Local Distribution	Kodzadzik, Dedeli, Gjopceli, Sobri, Chalaklii,	70	70	280	280	280	60	5	70	268

		Bashiboz, Kurtamzali									
BO Red Cross Skopje	Local Distribution + NERU **	Tanusevci, Malino Malo, Pobožje, Blace, Kuceviste, Mirkovci, Studenicani, Kolicani	120	120	100	100	240	100	1	120	472
BO Red Cross Gostivar	Local Distribution	Vrapciste, G.Genovica, D. Genovica	31	31	0	0	62	0	0	31	132
BO Red Cross Kumanovo	Local Distribution	Staro Nagoricane, Pelince	15	15	0	0	30	0	0	15	62
BO Red Cross Cair	Local Distribution	Cucer and part of village Brest	20	20	0	0	40	0	0	20	69
BO Red Cross Gazi baba	Local Distribution	Cresevo, Bulacani	20	20	0	0	40	0	0	20	78
CMC and MoD - by air I	MoD Distribution *	High mountain areas: Brod, Tetovo, Gostivar and Skopje	100	290	0	0	560	0	0	280	1120
CMC and MoD - by air II	MoD Distribution *	High mountain areas: Kumanovo and Krivo Palanka	290	100	0	0	240	0	0	120	480
Red Cross headquarters I	Regional distribution - NERU **	Distribution in the above mentioned regions-villages (1-16)	0	0	200	200	0	200	0	0	0
Red Cross headquarters II	Regional distribution - NERU **	Distribution in the above mentioned regions-villages (1-16)	0	0	120	120	0	120	0	0	0
Red Cross headquarters III	Regional distribution - NERU **	Distribution in the above mentioned regions-villages (1-16)	0	0	185	185	0	156	1	0	0
Red Cross headquarters IV	Regional distribution - NERU **	Distribution in the above mentioned regions-villages (1-16)	0	0	122	122	0	122	1	0	0
Red Cross headquarters V	Regional distribution - NERU **	Distribution in the above mentioned regions-villages (1-16)	0	0	70	70	0	140	2	0	0

Red Cross headquarters VI	Regional distribution - NERU **	Distribution in the above mentioned regions-villages (1-16)	0	0	55	55	0	55	0	0	0
		TOTAL:	1147	1147	1132	1132	2850	1053	10	1147	4456

* Ministry of Defence

** National Emergency Response

Unit

***BO: Branch organization of

Red Cross



Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/2-2012/5
Budget Timeframe	2012/2-2012/5
Appeal	MDRMK001
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	163,747					163,747	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	163,747					163,747	
C4. Other Income	163,747					163,747	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	163,747					163,747	
D. Total Funding = B +C	163,747					163,747	
Coverage = D/A	100%					100%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	163,747					163,747	
E. Expenditure	-163,128					-163,128	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	619					619	

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/2-2012/5
Budget Timeframe	2012/2-2012/5
Appeal	MDRMK001
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		163,747					163,747	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	76,100							76,100
Food	32,400							32,400
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	16,250							16,250
Medical & First Aid	1,150							1,150
Utensils & Tools	3,000							3,000
Other Supplies & Services	2,000							2,000
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	130,900							130,900
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	3,374							3,374
Transport & Vehicles Costs	7,115							7,115
Logistics Services	1,400							1,400
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	11,889							11,889
Personnel								
International Staff	600							600
National Society Staff	8,290							8,290
Volunteers	200							200
Total Personnel	9,090							9,090
General Expenditure								
Office Costs	1,474							1,474
Communications	400							400
Other General Expenses		0					0	-0
Total General Expenditure	1,874	0					0	1,874
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies		153,172					153,172	-153,172
Total Contributions & Transfers		153,172					153,172	-153,172
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	9,994	9,956					9,956	38
Total Indirect Costs	9,994	9,956					9,956	38
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	163,747	163,128					163,128	619
VARIANCE (C - D)		619					619	

DREF OPERATION

23/02/2012

03/08/2012

MDRMK001 Macedonia - Extreme Winter Condition

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF	Actual expenses CHF	Variance
Shelter - Relief			
Shelter - Transitional			
Construction - Housing			
Construction - Facilities			
Construction - Materials			
Clothing & Textiles	76,100	75,958	142
Food	32,400	32,278	122
Seeds & Plants			
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	16,250	16,282	-32
Medical & First Aid	1,150	1,295	-145
Teaching Materials			
Ustensils & Tools	3,000	2,969	31
Other Supplies & Services	2,000	2,262	-262
Emergency Response Units			
Cash Disbursements			
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	130,900	131,044	-144
Land & Buildings			
Vehicles Purchase			
Computer & Telecom Equipment			
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment			
Medical Equipment			
Other Machiney & Equipment			
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0	0	0
Storage, Warehousing			
Distribution & Monitoring	2,993	2,898	95
Transport & Vehicle Costs	7,115	6,776	339
Logistics Services	1,400	1,392	8
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	11,508	11,066	442
International Staff	600	619	-19
National Staff			
National Society Staff	8,290	8,132	158
Volunteers	0	0	0
Total PERSONNEL	8,890	8,752	138
Consultants			
Professional Fees			
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0	0
Workshops & Training	0	0	0
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0	0	0
Travel			
Information & Public Relations			
Office Costs	1,474	1,426	48
Communications	400	870	-470
Financial Charges			
Other General Expenses			
Shared Support Services			
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	1,874	2,296	-422
TOTAL NS BUDGET	153,172	153,158	14