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6-month Update

Albania: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRAL008 6-month update¹	GLIDE n° EQ-2019-000157-ALB
Date of issue: 2 June 2020	Timeframe covered by this update: 29 November 2019 – 30 April 2020
Operation start date: 29 November 2019	Operation timeframe: 12 months, ending 30 November 2020
Funding requirements (CHF): 5.1 million Funding coverage as of 2 June 2020²: 70%	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 229,375
N° of people being assisted: 16,000 people (4,000 households) directly, and up to 50,000 people through community-based activities	
<p>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The Albanian Red Cross (ARC) has received support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as well as National Societies in the region and beyond, including American Red Cross; Austrian Red Cross; British Red Cross; Belgian Red Cross (Flanders); China Red Cross (Hong Kong branch); Croatian Red Cross; Danish Red Cross; German Red Cross; Bulgarian Red Cross; Hellenic Red Cross; Italian Red Cross; Canadian Red Cross; Iraqi Red Crescent; Japanese Red Cross; Liechtenstein Red Cross; Monaco Red Cross; Swiss Red Cross; The Red Cross Society of the Republic of China (Taiwan); Red Cross of Montenegro; Red Cross Society of The Republic of North Macedonia; Red Cross of Serbia; Slovenian Red Cross; The Netherlands Red Cross; Turkish Red Crescent; Red Cross Society of United Arab Emirates and Qatar Red Crescent.</p> <p>Governments: Canadian Government (via Canadian RC), DFID - British Government, European Commission - DG ECHO, Danish Government, German Government, Government of Flanders, Government of Romania, Irish Government, Lithuania Government, Luxembourg Government, Government of Malta, Monaco Government, Netherlands Government (via Netherlands Red Cross), Poland Government, Republic of Korea Government, Spanish Government, Swiss Government</p> <p>Corporate donors: Statkraft, Verbund AG</p>	
<p>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Government of Albania (GoA) activated the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) on 26 November 2019. The Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams from Greece, Italy and Romania were deployed to Albania, with the USAR operation closing on 29 November. An EU Civil Protection team, including the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) members, deployed to Albania on 28 November with presence until 20 December 2019; UNDAC has extended presence until January 2020. The GoA accepted the UCPM-coordinated in-kind assistance from 10 UCPM member states and bilateral assistance from another nine member states.</p> <p>Damage assessment teams from several countries cooperate with Albanian experts on the ground. Active agencies include Swiss Development Cooperation/Swiss Humanitarian Aid, USAID; UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Women, WHO; Caritas Europe, Save the Children (SC), World Vision International (WVI), national and local NGOs.</p>	

¹ Due to operational needs, it was decided that the Ops Up no. 2 will be replaced by a 6-month report.

² <https://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MDRAL008.pdf>

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

This Operations Update is to report the progress in the implementation of activities and changing needs on the ground, covering the period from **29 November 2019 – 30 April 2020**.

During the reporting period, and after the emergency phase, the Emergency Appeal was revised on the 14 February to support the early recovery of the most vulnerable population affected by the earthquake to increase the funding requirement to 5.1 million and to introduce changes in the scope and scale of the implemented activities including: increased number of targeted households for multipurpose Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA): from 700 to 1,100; extension of in-kind assistance with food and household assistance from two to three months and replenishment of ARC contingency stocks.

On 9 March 2020, the GoA announced the first two cases with COVID-19 in Albania which was followed by imposing restrictions for on entire territory of the Albania for the movement of people, vehicles, gatherings, the closure of all schools; cancelling flights initially until 1 June, 2020. This has significantly impacted the progress of implementation and caused some delays in various activities. Nevertheless, immediately after ARC obtained the unrestricted permission to carry out its humanitarian activities on 1 April, 2020, the National Society resumed their PSS activities and the process of the household registration and targeting for CVA has and completed more than 1,500 families interviews in all affected areas.

This operation has also been focusing on strengthening National Society capacities in cash preparedness, volunteer management and training in various areas, PSS provision, information management and data collection, finance, and logistics (including software solutions and framework agreements).

No changes in the budget or the timeframe of the operation is planned through this Operation Update.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Since the earthquake struck on 26 November 2019, resulting in 51 deaths and up to 913 people injured, the Albanian Red Cross has been continuing to respond to the needs of the people affected. Aftershocks have decreased in magnitude but are still ongoing. A total of 11,490 housing units were categorized as fully destroyed or demolished and need to be rebuilt. An additional 83,745 of housing units were either partially or lightly damaged. Approximately 17,000 people are displaced and living in temporary accommodation. Most of the displaced households are staying in tents, host families or rented apartments.

The Government of Albania declared a state of emergency on 27 November lasting for 30 days, which was later extended until 31 March 2020.

The most affected administrative regions were the prefectures of Durrës, Lezhë and Tiranë. Structural damage has been widespread, yet focused on old buildings and on those built with poor building practice in the transition area of the 1990s and early 2000s. Additional administrative areas considered secondary affected are those where people have been evacuated to by the government, including Berat, Dibër, Elbasan, Fier, Kukës, Shkodra and Vlorë.

Structural damage assessment by Albanian experts and supported by international capacities has been completed at mid-February. The Post-Disaster Need Assessment indicates that 5,080 buildings (including apartment blocks, single-family houses, hotels, schools, infrastructure, etc) have been categorized under DS4 and DS5, equating to being uninhabitable. In the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) a total of 11,490 housing units have been classified as fully destroyed / to be demolished.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Albanian Red Cross (ARC) was established in 1921 and is active in community-based disaster awareness, preparedness and response activities, with a focus on first aid, assessments, community outreach, health and hygiene promotion activities. Volunteers from the ARC arrived immediately to the disaster site after the earthquake to provide support to the affected population. The ARC has been responding in the areas of First Aid, food support, psychosocial support, water and sanitation, shelter.

National Society response to date

Livelihoods and basic needs

ARC has been present in 99 different locations across the affected area and ten branches have been actively involved in the response operations. Initially, ARC has distributed relief items from its own stock and incoming in-kind assistance. As of 30 April 2020, ARC has completed the ARC “Standard Package” distribution (in total, 6,374 packages were distributed 4,000 packages out of which from IFRC Appeal funds). The packages consist of food items, blankets and a family hygiene kit.

ARC has also distributed tents, field beds, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, female hygiene kits, baby hygiene kits, kitchen sets and clothes. Activities during the initial weeks also included the distribution of hot meals (a total of 7,329 portions were distributed).

ARC response as of 30 April 2020 is indicated in the dashboard on the right.

ARC has also provided support in temporary camps set up in affected areas, in collective shelters such as gyms and community centres as well as hotels where people were evacuated to. In addition, ARC volunteers have also reached out to people who did not leave their damaged houses or stay in tents close to their property, especially in rural areas.

Preparations continue for a Cash and Vouchers Assistance program, which will soon replace relief item distributions. ARC, with the support of the IFRC, is continuing its strong advocacy efforts with relevant stakeholders at the central and local levels. Social welfare offices and local technical government staff engaged with damage assessments are the main counterparts of ARC teams and branches in targeting the households based on the established criteria. Preparation actions are also shared with technical working group partners during the Cash Working Group meetings. Albanian RC launched a tender in order to identify the Financial Service Provider. The intervention aims to reach about 1,100 households with multipurpose cash grants of CHF 120 (13,450 Albanian Lek) per household member. Payments will take place monthly for a duration of three months.

On 9 March 2020, while Albania Red Cross was in process of the household registration and targeting for CVA (until 8 March, 820 families were assessed), the GoA announced the first two cases with COVID-19 in Albania imposing restrictions for the entire territory of the Albania for the movement of people, vehicles, gatherings, the closure of all schools; cancelling the flights, initially until 1 June 2020.

Nevertheless, immediately after ARC obtained the unrestricted permission to carry out its humanitarian activities, on 1 April, 2020 the process of the household registration and targeting for CVA has restarted and up to date its completed with some 1,530 household interviews carried in all affected areas.

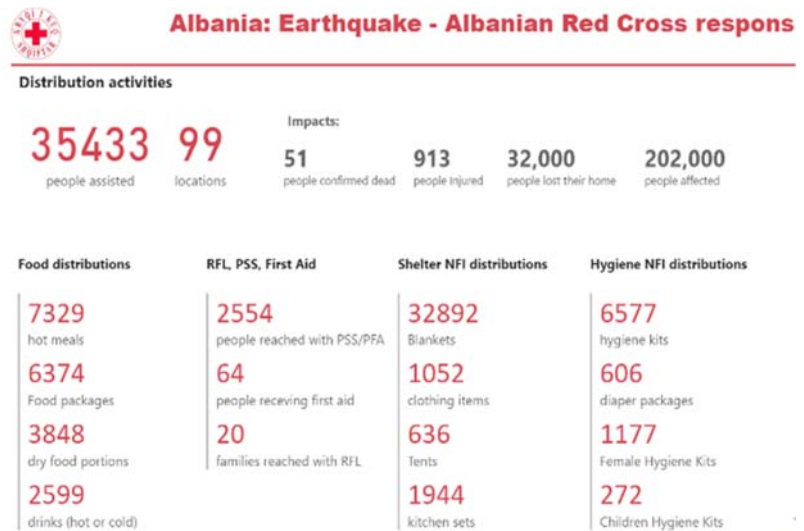


Figure 1 – Dashboard summarizing the Albanian Red Cross response. Average household size: 4.



Image 1 - ARC volunteer providing PSS to affected people. Photo: ARC



Figure 2 - CVA household data collection Dashboard

Health

Volunteer teams provided first aid and psychosocial support to families affected immediately after the earthquake, during search and rescue activities and in hospitals. Medical care for the affected population is widely implemented through the governmental health service, including medical visits and the provision of medication.

Multifunctional Mobile Teams implement health and PSS related activities. ARC/IFRC have developed the training plan for the psychosocial support and health programme, including training for multifunctional mobile teams, psychosocial support for school programmes, national training of trainers in psychosocial support, as well as training of volunteers in community-based disaster risk reduction activities.

Until 31 January 2020, 6 trainings on PSS aspects (with a total of 100 staff and volunteers participating) were held. Since the beginning of the operation the ARC assigned a Health officer and from mid-January, an ARC PSS officer is in charge of the implementation of PSS activities.

As of 30 April 2020, 2,554 persons were assisted with Psychological First Aid and other PSS interventions.

Shelter

ARC provided shelter-related household items in temporary camps set up in affected areas, in collective shelters and as well in hotels where people were evacuated to. In addition, ARC volunteers are also reaching out to people who stay close to their uninhabitable houses, especially in rural areas. Immediate winterization needs for these families were tackled by the distribution of suitable tents (636, from existing ARC stocks and with assistance of the Turkish Red Crescent) and winterization material (including 458 sleeping bags, 360 sleeping mats and a similar number of field beds, and in addition until 3 March 2020, 1,944 kitchen sets and more than 32,892 blankets are delivered -11,100 out of these financed through the IFRC Appeal).

The GoA Vice-Minister of Finance and the IFRC are co-leading the national shelter working group in line with IFRC's global shelter cluster role. Initial focus was on winterization, with a current shift to supporting the mid-to long-term planning support to GoA recovery strategies.

Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM)

The monitoring team interviewed 400 households via phone, selected randomly from the list of people in need from all affected areas. In the KoBo system there are 5,000 households registered, who have received assistance during the relief operation.

The focus of this monitoring included: basic information of the target beneficiaries; effectiveness and relevance of the distribution; the satisfaction of target beneficiaries on quantity and quality of received goods; Transparency of selection process and some recommendations. The questionnaire involved a combination of qualitative and quantitative questions to collect information. *For findings of the survey, please see Annex 1.*

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC, via its Regional Office for Europe (ROE) based in Budapest, has been in regular contact with the Albanian Red Cross, both at the senior management and operational level, since the start of the disaster and immediately deployed health, communications and planning, monitoring, evaluations and reporting (PMER) specialists to support the National Society response. The Deputy Regional Director a.i. visited also the ARC on 16-18 December, participated in the PSS training and met the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice, USAID, and other international organizations.

In the beginning of February Regional Director a. i. visited ARC and expressed continuous support to ARC for this Operation. The Regional Director also visited MOFA together with the leadership of ARC. The IFRC has a valid diplomatic status agreement in the country since 1994, but was not present in-country in recent years, prior to the earthquake since under normal circumstances the ARC is supported through the Budapest based Country Cluster for Central and South-Eastern Europe with regular communication and visits.

ICRC is supporting ARC directly in RFL activities from its regional office based in Belgrade, and IFRC maintains close contact with the ICRC's office in Belgrade. In addition, multiple technical specialists from IFRC and partner national societies, including Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Croatian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross were deployed or are supporting remotely as surge support to ARC

Bilateral Assistance (in-kind):

- **Croatian Red Cross** has provided a large truckload of humanitarian goods, including blankets and quilts.
- **Hellenic Red Cross** has assisted with three shipments of various relief goods (10 trucks).
- **Italian Red Cross** (deployment with Italian CP) ended their mission but is considering a medium-term bilateral support in PSS capacity building.
- **Red Cross of The Republic of North Macedonia** provided miscellaneous household items, food and hygiene parcels.
- **Montenegro Red Cross** assisted with relief goods (clothing).
- **Turkish Red Crescent** provided and distributed a variety of humanitarian goods, making some available to ARC for use in distributions, gradually demobilizing their in-country personnel since week 2 after the earthquake.
- **Red Cross Society of United Arab Emirates** has provided tents and other relief goods to Albanian Government authority requests.
- **Qatar Red Crescent** provided and distributed food, blankets and hygiene parcels.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Albanian government activated the European Union civil protection mechanism (UCPM) on 26 November. The Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams from Greece, Italy and Romania deployed to Albania, with USAR operation closing on 29 November. An EU Civil Protection (EUCP) team, including two United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) members, were deployed to Albania on 28 November with an expected presence until 20 December 2019. The GoA accepted the UCPM-coordinated in-kind assistance from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, Slovak Republic, Sweden and the United Kingdom and bilateral assistance from Croatia, France, Israel, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey and/or in kind assistance on bilateral basis.

Albanian authorities are in charge of coordination, with a crisis response and relief structure led by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development as the Government Special Envoy, and several Deputy Ministers in charge of specific areas of response (e.g. the Deputy Minister of Justice in charge of volunteer / NGO / humanitarian actor coordination). Some sectoral coordination mechanisms have been established with limited capacities, with efforts made to facilitate coordination with the joint EUCP/UNDAC team, international and national agencies on the ground. Damage assessments led by the GoA, supported by international experts, are ongoing. A GoA crisis management structure is in place and led by a special envoy for crisis response and relief, covering affected prefectures on different thematic/technical functions including accommodation, humanitarian aid coordination, etc. In the second week after the disaster, the government has started to support families with "rent bonus" program, supplementing with monthly cash for rent assistance.

A number of national and local NGOs have been active on the ground, many of these with limited capacities and working in the initial phase of response only. International actors present include a joint UCPM/UNDAC, damage assessment teams (several countries), Swiss Development Cooperation/Swiss Humanitarian Aid, USAID, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, Caritas Europe, Save the Children, and World Vision International. UNDAC was requested by the GoA to assist the coordination of NGOs/INGOs and UN.

At present, several coordination mechanisms / meetings with the participation of government representatives and respective engaged organizations have been created or discussed. ARC and IFRC are actively participating in the

established coordination mechanisms as outlined below, co-chairing the Cash working group. A shelter / NFI coordination group is currently being discussed (and potentially co-chaired by ARC/IFRC), yet not established. UNICEF has initialized activation of the education working group, but still not established.

Health and psychosocial support working group has been established and is chaired by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection. The working group is mainly focused on providing psychosocial support and protection of children and coordination of systematic response in terms of coverage of all affected areas. With exception of the Order of psychologists, there are no organizations providing psychosocial support to adults and specific vulnerable groups (e.g. older people). WHO will deploy a mental health delegate to support the MoHSP in coordination and implementation of psychosocial support activities. Organizations active in the working group are as follows: ARC, UNICEF, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes, World Vision International, Albanian Order of Psychologists and some local NGOs.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs assessment and targeting

Based on RC assessments, analysis of the GoA and findings from other organizations present in country, the primary needs of the affected population are in shelter, basic needs assistance, community-based health, PSS, and WASH (hygiene promotion).

- Shelter: Based on the rapid assessment conducted by World Vision in December; the most pressing needs and priority of the affected population are shelter (85% of all affected households). A total of 11,490 housing units were categorized as fully destroyed or demolished and need to be rebuilt. An additional 83,745 of housing units were either partially or lightly damaged. Approximately 17,000 people are displaced and living in temporary accommodation. Most of the displaced households are staying in tents, host families or rented apartments
- Livelihoods and Basic Needs: The loss and damage of property had a severe financial impact on the affected families, many of whom are incapable of recovering on their own without support. With ongoing in-kind basic needs assistance, the RC has identified areas for continued support for affected vulnerable households. These see an out-phasing of food and other in-kind support and roll out of a financial assistance support to cover basic needs
- Health: Health facilities are functioning almost to the extent prior to the disaster. Authorities have been providing home visits in the health sector and provide taking medication to chronically sick persons. Specific dietary needs are widely taken care of by local authorities and local NGOs. Since the beginning of the operation, ARC volunteers teams address acute and chronic health conditions of affected population: trauma, communicable diseases, diabetes, disabilities with special focus to community based health actions for most at risk groups (especially in rural areas) such as older people, children and pregnant women.
- PSS: The direct impact of the earthquake is exacerbated by a high degree of uncertainty within the affected population resulting from the trauma suffered and a lack of clear information on their current and future options. Consequently, people are stressed, frightened and have difficulties in coping with the past and current situation. In addition, occasional aftershocks undermine people's sense of safety, thereby not only affecting those with destroyed or damaged houses and other asset loss, but the wider communities. Hence, there is a need for a psychosocial programming with a broader scope.
- WASH: Based on GoA assessments, water and sanitation systems have not been disrupted significantly and are operating on pre-disaster level. Supplementary assistance in terms of hygiene items is provided for displaced people and those staying in damaged houses, given their limited access to sanitary services. The affected population includes groups with specific hygiene-related needs, such as displaced women and families with small children, who are assisted with specific items. Promotion of good hygiene practice is required, with a special focus on the population living in tents.

In accordance with previous practices in Albania, identification and targeting of people in need is primarily based on information of 1) affectedness (house/apartment damaged, lost family members) and 2) vulnerability. Information is widely provided by local authorities and validated by ARC with additional assessments. In addition, assessments and information on people in need from NGOs are used. Primary selection criteria are damage to houses/apartments and vulnerability, the latter is based on welfare system status and on assessment results.

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential response
Prolonged poor shelter conditions (tents, collective centres) (probable)	Adverse impact on health, increased need for shelter assistance with a focus on winterization.	Operational shift towards shelter assistance and health programming, continuation of CVA approach unrestricted (with an expectation of increased use for rents).
Delayed recovery process (probable)	Prolonged need for humanitarian assistance (shelter, livelihoods)	Extension of CVA programming.

Operation Risk Assessment

One of the key risks identified include prolonged need for in-kind and/or cash or voucher assistance depending on possible delays in the government-led recovery process. Worsening weather conditions may exacerbate the situation for people in poor shelter conditions (i.e. tents without heating system). To mitigate this, ARC, supported by IFRC, have plans to continue in-kind assistance, replenishing ARC's stocks utilized in this response while continuously assessing the duration of CVA programming before operational implementation. ARC and IFRC are advocating with the authorities to timely implement shelter commitments towards non-tented temporary shelters.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Implemented strategy

This Emergency Appeal contributes to the overall ARC plan of action for their response to the earthquake, complementing the national and bilaterally funded activities of ARC in the respective sectors

A total of 10,000 people have been supported with health/PSS, WASH (hygiene kits), livelihoods and basic needs (multi- purpose cash grants), and shelter (household items) activities. Up to 50,000 people will be reached with community based DRR, PSS and health activities through awareness programming. The operation thereby takes an integrated approach for activities in the sectors of WASH, health/PSS, Shelter, PGI (including RFL) and DRR through multifunctional mobile teams

The Emergency Appeal operation that was revised on 14 February 2020 aims to meet the immediate needs and support the early recovery of the most vulnerable population affected by the earthquake in Albania with focus on the population of the most affected prefectures of Durrës (Durrës city, Shijak), Tirana (Vorë), Lezhë (Laç, Shëngjin), and Kruja (Thumane).

The number of households for multipurpose CVA assistance has been increased from 700 to 1,100. Replenishment of ARC contingency stocks as well as NS capacity development in cash preparedness, volunteer management, IT, finance and logistics systems support have also been included.

IFRC has been supporting ARC in responding to the needs of affected communities through the Areas of Focus identified, complementing the capacity and experience of ARC in this comparatively large-scale disaster by national standards. IFRC is shoring up its technical support through surge deployments where ARC has limited experience in or have identified as areas to further develop and improve, such as CVA and psychosocial support.

The EPoA outlines actions that not only seek to support the communities affected, but also strengthen the National Society's capacity and preparedness for future disaster response.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People reached: 20,000
 Male: 9,894³
 Female: 10,106

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	2,000	4,000

Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with household items	10,000	20,000

Progress towards outcomes

Initially, it was planned to assist 2,000 households (10,000 people) in a duration of two months, nevertheless, after the needs assessment completed the figures showed that the number of affected people need support was higher. Hence after the consultation of IFRC country team It was decided to support a number of 4,000 households per one month in order to address their immediate needs.

Since the beginning of response activities until 30 April 2020, ARC has distributed:

- **636 tents** provided from existing ARC stocks and with assistance of the Turkish Red Crescent;
- winterization material (including **458** sleeping bags, **360** sleeping mats and a similar number of field beds, **1052** clothing items from various sources;
- **2,000** kitchen sets (DFID) and
- **32,892** blankets are delivered: **2,245** through RCRC partners; **5,295** from national donations (USAID), **11,000** financed through the IFRC Appeal (from which **4,350** from DFID) and **14,352** from ARC stock (from which 9,000 blankets will be replenished through IFRC Appeal).



Image 2 - Distribution of household items to affected people in Maminas. *Photo: ARC*

The distribution of household items has been carried out based on lists of affected and vulnerable people received from municipalities, and on rapid assessment conducted on local level by ARC branches.

Challenges/ constraints

The people living in the rural area prefer to stay close to their damaged houses instead of to using the accommodation places offered by the GoA. Their decision for not moving from their houses affected the ARC response as well, as it required slightly different approaches as well as human and material resources to provide them with more individualized support than it was initially operationally planned.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 20,000

Male: 9,894³

Female: 10,106

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with food assistance or cash for basic needs	10,000	20,000

Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with food assistance for basic needs	10,000	20,000

Output 1.5: Households are provided with unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households supported with cash or vouchers for basic needs	1,100	0

Progress towards outcomes

Since the disaster occurred, ARC has distributed **2,600** hot or cold drinks, **7,329** portions of hot meal and **3,848** dry food portions from own stocks and donations.

Until 30 April, **6,374** standard (family) food packages were distributed (40.5kg of food items each) from which **4,000** packages were funded from the IFRC Appeal (ECHO funds); **580** through RCRC partners; **1,000** from national donations (USAID) and **794** from ARC stock. Standard food parcels are procured from the local market.

The distribution of food items has been carried out based on lists of affected and vulnerable people received from municipalities, and based on rapid assessment conducted on local level by ARC branches.

On 9 March 2020, while Albania Red Cross was in process of the family need assessment for CVA (until 8 March, 820 families were assessed), the GoA announced the first two cases with COVID-19 in Albania imposing restrictions on the entire territory of the Albania for the movement of people, vehicles, gatherings, the closure of all schools; cancelling the flights, a initially until 3 April 2020 and then it was extended later on.

Nevertheless, immediately after Albanian Red Cross obtained the unrestricted permission to carry out its humanitarian activities the process of the household registration and targeting for CVA has restarted and up to date its completed with some **1,500 household interviews** carried out in all affected areas. Among those 1,500; 1,100 household are already selected as CVA assistance.



Image 3 - Household data collection for CVA. Photo: ARC


Challenges/ constraints

Identifying Financial Service Provider (FSP) for the cash assistance has been a major challenge. Despite the fact that tendering process has been done in a timely manner, January 2020 and nine Financial Service Providers (FSPs) were invited to participate in the tendering process only two out of the nine submitted their proposals and the winning FSP was identified in February 2020.

After more than two months of negotiations with the FSP regarding the contractual details of the cash distribution Albanian Red Cross (ARC) has made the decision not to move on in the collaboration with this provider, given the inconsistent information received on the contractual details.

³ Sex disaggregation numbers in all sectors are currently based on data collected in KoBo system.

As an alternative solution to move as quickly as possible with the cash distribution, ARC together with the IFRC country team have been exploring the possibility of using the direct cash modality. The cash distribution might be performed via bank cheques (directly from the ARC bank account opened specifically for the CVA program). ARC has previous experience using this mechanism (bank cheques) and has supported 2,000 HHs affected by floods in 2015 with WFP funding, making this option the preferable alternative at the moment.

 <p>Health People reached: 2,718 Male: 1,802 Female: 916</p>		
Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced		
Output 1.1: The health situation and immediate risks are assessed using agreed guidelines		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of assessments conducted	4	1
Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with community-based disease prevention and health promotion programming	10,000	2,000
Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with home visits	2,000	638
# of people trained in FA/CBHFA	140	53
Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with psychosocial support	10,000	2,554
Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of RC staff and volunteers reached with PSS sessions	140	100
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>Parts of the affected people live in tents, close to their houses / premises; most of them attached to their livelihood and stocks, and therefore not wanting to leave their area. According to field reports, many of them are older people with a variety of needs to be addressed. A majority of organizations is focusing on hotels, leaving this specific population at risk with low levels of support. ARC has been actively working on providing support via mobile teams to reach and provide psychosocial and practical support to them and hence enabling access to those most vulnerable. In addition, PSS has been provided through recreational activities with children and PSS sessions with older people. In addition, in first weeks 64 person have been provided with FA from branch volunteers.</p> <p>In the first month of the program implementation, three one-day basic PFA trainings have been organized for staff and volunteers (who should be part of mobile teams) from five RC branches involved in the operation: Durrës, Kruja, Lezhe, Shkoder and Tirana. A total 53 staff and volunteers participated in the training.</p> <p>In the second month, a Multifunctional Mobile Teams' Training was organized with participation of 48 volunteers from six RC branches involved in the operation: Tirana, Kruje, Shijak, Durrës, Lezhe, Lac. Except the psychosocial support topics, the training included additional components such as: RFL in emergency, basic FA/CBHFA and Disaster risk reduction (DRR).</p> <p>After the training, the multifunctional mobile teams (providing PSS and RFL assistance), are already operational in Durrës and Tirana, Kruje, Lac, Shijak and Lezhe reaching those most vulnerable (e.g. affected people in remote</p>		

areas, older people and families sleeping in the tents in front of their houses).

Until 5 March 2020 some **2,554 persons** or 638 families have been reached with PSS by Mobile Teams in affected areas. This process was interrupted, due to the restrictions taken for COVID-19 outbreak.

In addition, PFA messages for social media have been made and translated into Albanian and on FB page of the ARC two publications were made available related to the psychoeducation reaching the wider public. Four leaflets on PSS (Coping with stress, Children's stress, Psychological first aid and Working in stressful situations) are adapted and translated into Albanian and are ready to print out.

To support the PSS programme, in mid-January 2020, a PPS Officer was appointed.

Challenges/ constraints

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and in order to follow social distancing safety measures, it was not possible to start community-based health activities as it was planned. It is expected to start these during the month of June 2020.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 20,000
Male: 9,894
Female: 10,106

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households reached with key messages to promote personal and community hygiene	10,000	2,000
Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	10,000	2,000
Output 1.5: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with hygiene kits	20,000	20,000

Progress towards outcomes

Water and sanitation infrastructures were functioning well in the affected areas and the needs were for supplementary support for maintaining good hygiene and sanitary conditions and to prevent communicable diseases. ARC have been raising hygiene awareness (including menstrual hygiene aspects) with the affected population as supplementary support in order to maintain good hygiene and sanitary conditions and to prevent communicable diseases, as part of the activities of multifunctional mobile teams. Up to date some 2,000 people are with reached hygiene promotion activities.

Two leaflets to promote personal and community hygiene are adapted and translated into Albanian and are ready to be printed out.

Challenges/ constraints

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and in order to follow social distancing safety measures, hygiene promotion activities have been hampered.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 380

Male: 171

Female: 209

Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with PGI services	1,000	380

Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people trained in RFL	50	53

Progress towards outcomes

Since the beginning of the operation, ARC has been providing RFL services to connect and maintain communication between family members in and outside of the affected areas. Volunteers were present on evacuation points, and a hotline was set up in the HQ. A total of 20 families (approx. 80 people) have been supported with RFL and approximately 300 people have been supported with information about the health status and whereabouts of their relatives in hospitals.

PGI components are integral part of all PSS trainings, and 'RFL in emergencies' has been integrated into the agenda of PSS trainings as well (see Health section for details on completed trainings).



Disaster Risk Reduction

People reached: 0

Male: 0

Female: 0

Outcome 1: Communities in high risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached with public awareness and education campaigns using harmonized messages to reduce, mitigate and respond to identified risks	50,000	0

Output 1.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached through DRR activities in communities and schools	50,000	0

Progress towards outcomes

As part of revised EA, DRR activities have been revised and modified.

Challenges/ constraints

Due to the restriction taken for COVID-19 outbreak, all planned activities on DRR are expected to be implemented from mid-June 2020.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: Strengthen National Society capacities and ensure sustained and relevant Red Cross and Red Crescent presence in communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual

NS contingency plan has been updated and revised	1	0
Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers benefitting from learning and educational activities throughout the operation	200	100
Output S1.1.7: NS capacity to support community-based disaster risk reduction, response and preparedness is strengthened		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
An EOC is in place by the end of the appeal implementation	1	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>PSS trainings (with RFL and PGI elements integrated) for volunteers have started (see Health section), with 6 trainings conducted in the reporting period jointly by the ARC PSS focal point and the Surge PSS delegate.</p> <p>Remote SIMS support has been complemented with on-the-job excel training, and establishment of basic data management tools by IFRC ROE PMER.</p> <p>Significant improvements of data management and mobile data collection have been done with the support of the Surge CVA delegate and IM surge delegate (until 8 March).</p> <p>Involved ARC volunteers are capable to use the KoBo platform. Surge Logistics and Relief delegates have worked closely with NS counterparts to ensure effective procurement and warehousing.</p> <p>The IFRC via its Regional Office for Europe (IFRC ROE) based in Budapest has been in regular contact with the Albanian Red Cross since the start of the disaster and deployed health, communications and planning, monitoring, evaluations and reporting (PMER) specialists to support the National Society response. ARC has a contingency plan but it is in the process of updating.</p> <p>The establishment of an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is still foreseen within the EA timeframe, complementing an existing "Building communication and coordination capacities for efficient preparedness and response in South Eastern Europe". The EA supports the establishment of the EOC with space and equipment.</p>		

International Disaster Response		
Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of coordination meetings where IFRC is present along with ARC representative	100	100
Output 2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of Surge requests with positive response	80	100
Output 2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Community feedback mechanism is established	1	1
Output S2.1.4: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of vehicles properly serviced and maintained by the end of the operation	100	N/A
Progress towards outcomes		

ARC and IFRC representatives regularly attend coordination meetings since the beginning of the operation. ARC and IFRC are actively participating in the established coordination mechanisms in the areas of Health, PSS, and general inter-agency coordination, co-chairing the Cash WG, and will be part of an upcoming DRR in education working group. A shelter / NFI coordination group is currently being discussed with relevant actors, yet not established.

Until 12 March 2020, all surge requests received positive response, with a total of six delegates (Operations Manager, Logistics, Relief / Logistics, CVA, CVA trainee and PSS / Health, IM), and remote SIMS, supporting the NS. The transition period from Surge Delegates to IFRC Delegates is done. At present in country Operations Manager, Finance Admin. Delegate and CVA Delegate are supporting and PSS Delegate is supporting from Budapest Office and will join at first opportunity.

Influence others as leading strategic partner		
Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of ARC staff trained in Comms	1	0
Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of international press releases	5	3
Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of final evaluation	1	0
Outcome S3.2: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of ROE PMER missions	3	2
Output S3.2.1: Resource generation and related accountability models are developed and improved		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of NS staff trained in PMER	5	3
Progress towards outcomes		
Technical assistance by IFRC ROE has been provided by the deployment of Communications Manager in the first two weeks of the disaster.		
IFRC ROE PMER provided support in two missions in the drafting of the Emergency Appeal and the EPoA and provided PMER briefing to three staff of ARC.		

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC		
Outcome S4.1: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability		
Output S4.1.2: IFRC staff shows good level of engagement and performance		
Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of NS person dealing with finances	2	2
# of audit carried out	2	0
Output S4.1.4: Staff security is prioritised in all IFRC activities		

Progress towards outcomes

Technical assistance from IFRC ROE was provided since the beginning of the implementation of the emergency appeal on operational management, information management, communications, PSS, health, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, logistics and procurement during technical staffs' mission to country. Four staff has been appointed in ARC to fulfil the HR and finance needs of the operation.

D. Financial Report

Please [click here](#) to see the interim financial report.

Reference documents

Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and Operations Updates](#)

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

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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 Humanitarian 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.

Annex 1 – Findings of the Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey

I. Profile of PDM survey participants

Figure 1: Breakdown of survey participants by gender

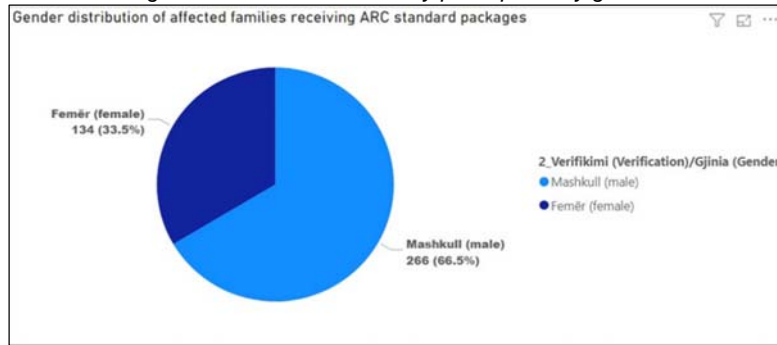


Figure 2: Breakdown of survey participants by gender by affected areas

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Tirana	242	60.5
Vorë	45	11.25
Durrës	44	11
Kamëz	44	11
Shijak	15	3.75
Krujë	10	2.5

Figure 3: Breakdown of participants by extent of damage to property

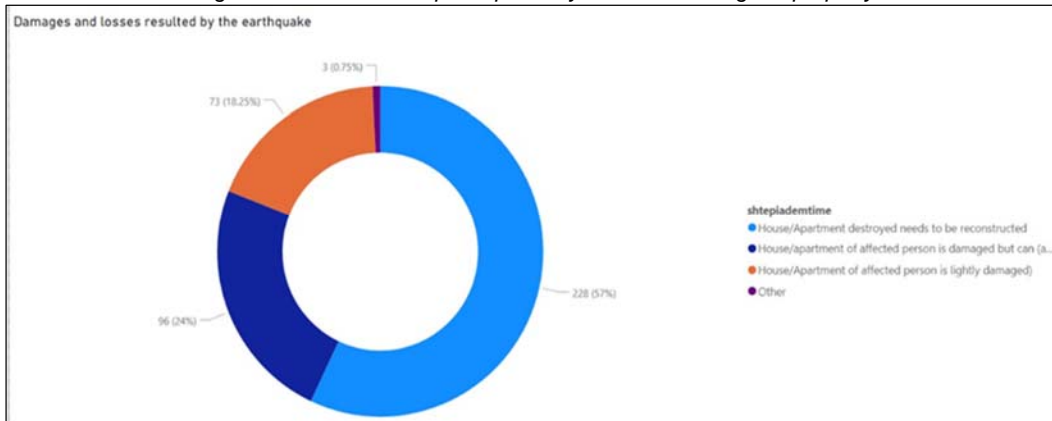
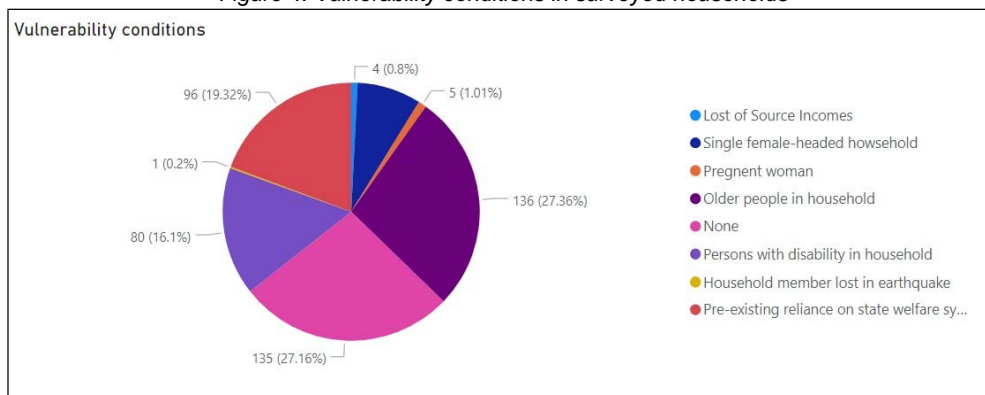
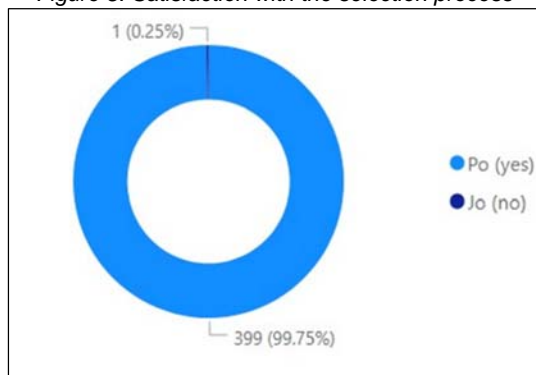


Figure 4: Vulnerability conditions in surveyed households



II. Satisfaction with Selection process

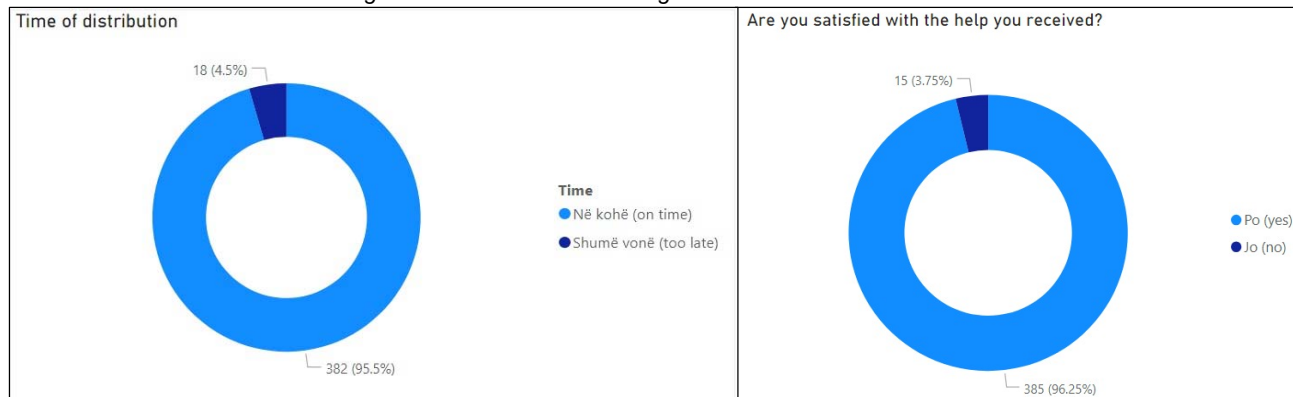
Figure 5: Satisfaction with the selection process



III. Satisfaction with assistance received

Based on the answers received it is noticed that most of HHs have been very satisfied with the assistance received by ARC, even they have expressed that ARC was the first responder that have assisted them on time.

Figure 6: Satisfaction with timing and with received assistance



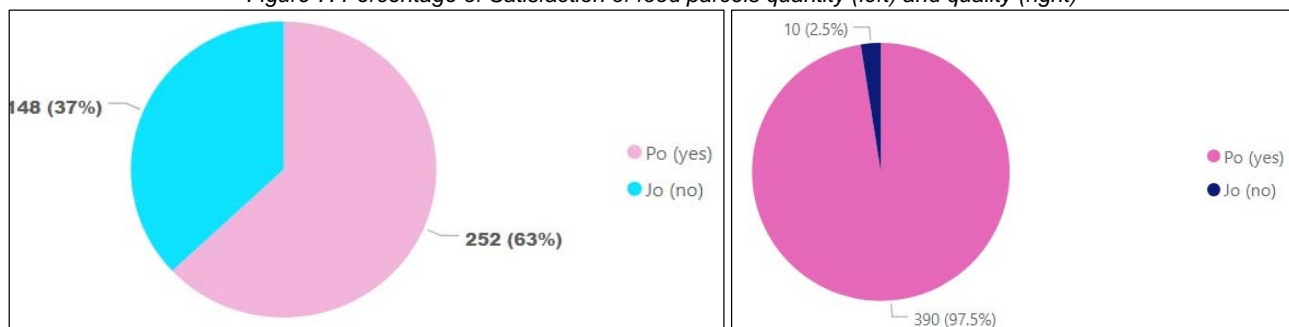
ARC “Standard packages”

The ARC “Standard packages” provided to the beneficiaries consisted of food items, blankets and a family hygiene kit. Based on the needs, female hygiene kits and baby kits, kitchen sets, sleeping bags and other shelter items were also provided. However, the questions were focused on two items: food parcels and hygiene kits.

Food parcels

Even though 96.25% of beneficiaries were satisfied with the food parcels received, 37% of them answered that the quantity was not enough for one month. 97% of the respondents stated that they were very satisfied with quality of the food parcels.

Figure 7: Percentage of Satisfaction of food parcels quantity (left) and quality (right)



Hygiene kits

While the beneficiaries were very satisfied with quality and quantity of family and female hygiene kits, 46% of them were not satisfied with the quantity of the baby kits.

Figure 8: Percentage of satisfaction of hygiene kit **quantity** (multiple types)

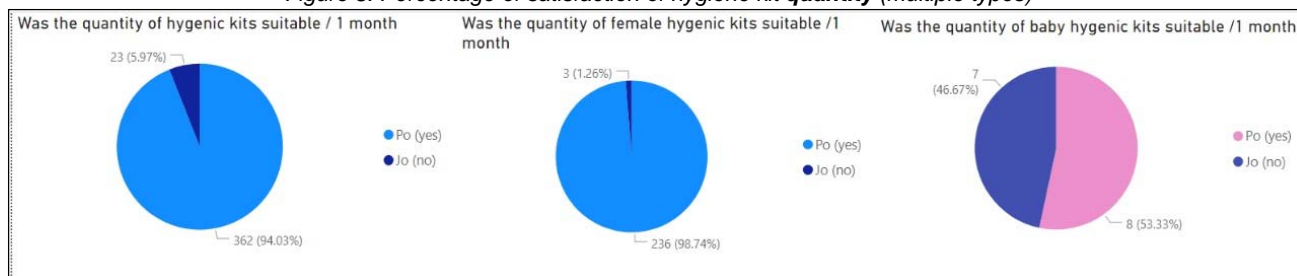
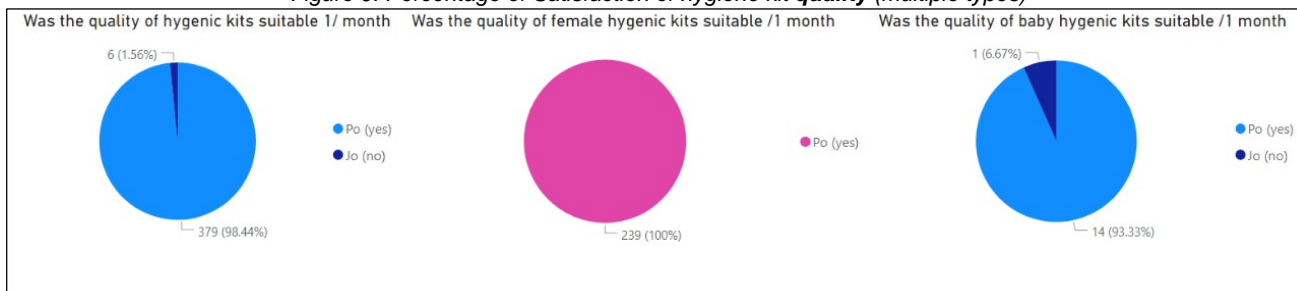


Figure 9: Percentage of Satisfaction of hygiene kit **quality** (multiple types)



Emergency Appeal

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/11-2020/04	Operation	mdral008
Budget Timeframe	2019/11-2020/11	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 18 May 2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAL008 - Albania - Earthquake

Operating Timeframe: 29 Nov 2019 to 30 Nov 2020; appeal launch date: 29 Nov 2019

I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Thematic Area Code	Requirements CHF
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	80,000
AOF2 - Shelter	330,000
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	2,920,000
AOF4 - Health	325,000
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	130,000
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	25,000
AOF7 - Migration	0
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	655,000
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	360,000
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	40,000
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	235,000
Total Funding Requirements	5,100,000
Donor Response* as per 18 May 2020	3,395,093
Appeal Coverage	66.57%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	27,690	0	27,690
AOF2 - Shelter	139,831	118,638	21,194
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	2,000,600	390,381	1,610,219
AOF4 - Health	225,758	31,113	194,645
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	6,923	37,474	-30,552
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	14,007	0	14,007
AOF7 - Migration	0	0	0
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	271,579	737	270,842
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	320,747	55,496	265,251
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	34,080	11	34,069
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	195,444	37,688	157,756
Grand Total	3,236,659	671,538	2,565,121

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2020/04

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	3,397,240
Expenditure	-671,538
Closing Balance	2,725,702
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	2,725,702

IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	250,000	Reimbursed :	250,000	Outstanding :	0
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Emergency Appeal

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/11-2020/04	Operation	mdral008
Budget Timeframe	2019/11-2020/11	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 18 May 2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAL008 - Albania - Earthquake

Operating Timeframe: 29 Nov 2019 to 30 Nov 2020; appeal launch date: 29 Nov 2019

V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance							0
Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income	
American Red Cross	20,849				20,849		
Belgian Government - Flanders	189,267				189,267		
Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)	13,463				13,463		
China Red Cross, Hong Kong branch	24,927				24,927		
Croatian Red Cross	27,910				27,910		
Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government*)	723,252				723,252		
DFID - British Government		100,009			100,009		
European Commission - DG ECHO	321,339				321,339		
German Red Cross	4,998	76,894			81,892		
German Red Cross (from German Government*)	160,114				160,114		
Government of Romania	106,402				106,402		
Great Britain - Private Donors	1,663				1,663		
Iraqi Red Crescent Society	975				975		
Irish Government	328,634				328,634		
Japanese Red Cross Society	88,665				88,665		
Liechtenstein Red Cross	30,100				30,100		
Lithuania Government	10,893				10,893		
Luxembourg Government	109,545				109,545		
Monaco Government	10,593				10,593		
On Line donations	6,346				6,346		
Poland Government	25,298				25,298		
Red Cross of Monaco	10,743				10,743		
Republic of Korea Government	294,296				294,296		
Spain - Private Donors	54				54		
Spanish Government	27,564				27,564		
StatKraft	54,750				54,750		
Swiss Government	200,000				200,000		
Swiss Red Cross	150,000				150,000		
Taiwan Red Cross Organisation	7,513				7,513		
The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Gov	128,471				128,471		
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	119,826				119,826		
United States - Private Donors	96				96		
Verbund	21,787				21,787		
Total Contributions and Other Income	3,220,337	176,903	0	0	3,397,240	0	
Total Income and Deferred Income					3,397,240	0	