

www.ifrc.org  
Saving lives,  
changing minds.

## Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Montenegro: Floods in the refugee Camp Konik

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRME006**  
**GLIDE n° FF-2012-000168-MNE**  
**24<sup>th</sup> September 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 83,656 (USD 89,519 or EUR 69,143) has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 150 families (800 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** On July 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 refugee camp Konik, in the suburbs of Podgorica, the capital of Montenegro, caught fire. The whole settlement of camp Konik I was destroyed with prefabricated houses – 38 of them – burning down.

The fire destroyed the Red Cross office and warehouse that were within the camp, the youth club, the community centre with two premises for kindergarten, the field office of Legal Advisory Centre as well as the Roma NGO office.



**Konik refugee camp after the fires that burnt down buildings and the floods that wrecked tents. Photo : Red Cross of Montenegro**

From the outset of disaster, the Red Cross of Montenegro has been working with the National and local authorities and international community to alleviate suffering and to meet the basic needs of the affected population.

Red Cross erected a tent settlement for the affected camp inhabitants, using 155 tents. Using its emergency stock, the Red Cross of Montenegro also distributed 800 mattresses, 800 blankets, 250 jerry cans, 250 kitchen sets. The national society also distributes daily hot meals, provided by Municipality of Podgorica, UNHCR, German NGO HELP and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. Food distribution began the first day after the fire and is still on. Red Cross representatives regularly updated the list of camp inhabitants in the tents. Red Cross teams also provided psychosocial support to the affected population.

Even though the National Society used relief items from its own emergency stock, further replenishment will not be necessary at the moment.

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare in the Government of Montenegro established an Operational Team whose main task was to deal with the current situation. The team consisted of the representatives of the Bureau for the Care of Refugees, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Municipality of Podgorica, UN Agencies and Red Cross of Montenegro.

With 800 people rendered homeless by the fires, the Operational team decided that a tent settlement should be erected as a temporary shelter solution. It also decided to establish regular provision of hot meals to the population in need. The food is provided by UNHCR and Municipality of Podgorica and distributed by the Red Cross of Montenegro.

However, situation in the camp deteriorated due to heavy rain falls and storms of September 13<sup>th</sup>. After months of hot and dry weather, Podgorica was hit with heavy rain and windstorms and the damage in the camp was devastating. Five tents collapsed completely and all the remaining ones were completely flooded. Living conditions in the camp became even worse with personal belongings and the previously distributed blankets, mattresses, kitchen utensils, clothes etc. destroyed by water or washed away, leaving the population of the camp even worse off than after the fire.

Knowing that further weather deterioration is forecast the government and the Operational Team have decided to temporarily move the settlement to another location – a former army facility with existing buildings and infrastructure. There the population will wait for the accommodation containers to be installed in the original location – estimated to take three months. The Operational Team is at the moment discussing with different donors the possibilities of providing food for the camp population until they return to the original settlement, but the Red Cross of Montenegro is aware of the immediate need and through this operation plans to bridge the one month gap until other solutions are found. The operation would provide all the affected population with one hot meal per day for one month. Upon the return to the original premises, with the provision of the accommodation containers, the population will be able to prepare its own food as they will be getting the equipment to do so alongside the electrical and other installations that are all at the moment out of their reach.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will therefore be completed by 24<sup>th</sup> November 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012).

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

## The situation

After the conflict in Kosovo of 1999, more than 4.000 people of Roma origin fled from Kosovo and settled in Montenegro, in the suburbs of Podgorica. UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations responded quickly to the influx of refugees and built a tent settlement for temporary shelter. As of 2003, Red Cross of Montenegro is in charge for managing this camp settlement. Red Cross of Montenegro is the executive partner of UNHCR regarding camp management, where there are 211 families, with 1179 people.



On the morning of July 24<sup>th</sup>, at 5.00 AM, the camp caught fire. The whole settlement of camp Konik I was destroyed in the fire – 38 houses burned down leaving some 800 persons homeless. The main priority after the fire was to find solution for accommodation. The Operational team comprising of the representatives of the Bureau for the Care of refugees, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Municipality of Podgorica, UN Agencies and the Red Cross of Montenegro decided that the temporary solution should be erecting of tent settlement followed by daily provision of hot meals for all of the population in need.

The Red Cross of Montenegro provided 155 tents out of its own emergency stock. On the same day after the fire, the members of local and National Red Cross Disaster Management teams, together with the Army of Montenegro erected 85 tents, with 70 additional ones being set up the next day.

The tents were provided for all the families who were rendered homeless after the fire. Besides this, two tents for field ambulances were also erected. One has been used for children check-ups and the other one for adults.



However, situation in the camp deteriorated due to heavy rain falls and storms of September 13<sup>th</sup>, which resulted in collapsing of five tents and severe flooding of all the remaining ones. Living conditions became even worse with personal belongings and the previously distributed blankets, mattresses, kitchen utensils, clothes etc. destroyed or washed away by water. The Red Cross had discussed this very danger with the sector leaders among the population in the camp, explaining the safety rules that should be followed in setting up the tents (drainage canals, no improvised equipment) but they were to a large extent ignored and the rain and strong winds destroyed several tents, flooding the rest and washing away a lot of the personal possessions including the donated blankets, clothes and mattresses, hygiene items and what little food reserves existed.

Knowing that further weather deterioration is forecast the government and the Operational Team have decided to temporarily move the settlement to another location – a former army facility with existing buildings and infrastructure. There the population will wait for the accommodation containers to be installed in the original location – estimated to take three months. The containers will be procured by the government with 1.2 million Euro already budgeted. The government at the moment provides food for the affected population and will also be providing transportation for some 220 school children when moved to the new location so they can continue to attend school.

## Coordination and partnerships

After the fire, a German NGO HELP provided funds for distribution of hot meals for the period of one month. The food was distributed by the Red Cross of Montenegro. After this period the UNHCR took over provision of daily hot meals which lasted until September 10<sup>th</sup>. At the moment, the food is being provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, but their capacities are limited.

USAID office in Montenegro awarded the Red Cross with a grant of 50,000 USD that were used for procurement of ambulance and kitchen containers in the camp, as well as for 850 hygiene parcels. 340 hygiene parcels were distributed already, while the remaining quantities will be distributed in October.



Government of Montenegro allocated funds for procurement of 200 accommodation containers and preparing the site for their installation. However, it will take at least three months until the now homeless camp population can be accommodated in containers.

Due to heavy rain falls and windstorms of September 13<sup>th</sup> the situation in the camp deteriorated even further with tents collapsing, severe flooding and all personal

belongings and previously distributed relief items (blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, clothes...) being destroyed. The health professionals on the Operational Team are worried about the risk of spreading the water borne diseases and are suggesting temporary transfer of the population off site until the accommodation containers are ready.

The containers are 15 square metres in size, with two windows and a door. They will be equipped with a refrigerator (135 litres), mini stove, radiator, as well as shelves for food and clothes. Minimum 3 and maximum 5 persons will be accommodated in one container. Families with more than 5 family members will get two joint containers, and families with 1-3 members will get a container which is divided in two, with two separate entrances.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the very moment of the onset of the disaster, the Red Cross of Montenegro has been working with national and local authorities and the international community to alleviate the suffering of the affected population and to meet their basic needs.



### Camp management

The Red Cross of Montenegro provided 155 tents out of its own emergency stock. On the same day after the fire, the members of local and National Red Cross Disaster Management teams, together with the Army of Montenegro erected 85 tents, with 70 additional ones being set up the next day. After the floods of September 13, the Red Cross kept assisting the camp population while assessing the new needs.

### Relief distribution

The Red Cross of Montenegro representatives participated in distribution of different relief items, provided by the Red Cross and other national and international donors. Camp inhabitants received food, blankets, mattresses, hygiene parcels, jerry cans, kitchen sets and some clothes and shoes:

Item	Donor	Quantity
Food	UNHCR, City of Podgorica	One hot meal per person: 830 meals for seven days
Hygiene parcels	UNDP	340 parcels
Blankets	Red Cross of Montenegro stock	800
Mattresses	Red Cross of Montenegro stock	800
Jerry cans	Red Cross of Montenegro stock and UNHCR	250
Kitchen sets	Red Cross of Montenegro stock and UNHCR	250
Clothes and shoes	Red Cross of Montenegro stock	400 adult and 200 children sets

## Keeping the record of the population in the camp

Red Cross representatives regularly updated the list of camp inhabitants in the tents. In cooperation with authorities in charge, a list of necessary documentation was created. Camp inhabitants received support in establishing contacts with authorities in charge for dealing with the legal, administrative and other problems.

## Psychosocial support

Special attention was paid to most vulnerable categories of this population – children, women, and older people. At first, trained volunteers were visiting the population of the camp daily trying to calm them, since almost everyone lost everything they had. After a while a more structured approach was designed, and at the moment, the volunteers organize weekly workshop for all the affected people where everyone can share their concerns and problems. Red Cross teams are regularly providing them with updated information about their situation, since they expect that the government and other institutions in charge will find a solution for their problem. Constant sharing of information means a lot to them since they realize they are not forgotten,



Turkish Red Crescent donated 110 tents and 600 food parcels (beans, rice, sugar, flour...). This food will be distributed to the affected population after they go to the containers, since only then they will be in position to prepare the food themselves.

## The needs

The rain worsened the already difficult situation in camp Konik. Health professionals insist on leaving the premises until sanitized to reduce the risk of water borne diseases spreading and the

government is as mentioned preparing to transfer the camp population to a former army facility where they will spend approximately three months in hard-material buildings, waiting for the installation of accommodation containers at the original premises.

During this period they will need prepared food – no way to prepare their own food without equipment and/or power – as well as another batch of basic non-food relief items: blankets and mattresses, shoes and clothes since the majority of items received in July were destroyed in the flood.

According to the preliminary assessment from the field and list of people who lost their homes, approximately 800 beneficiaries (150 families) will be supported through this operation. Those are the people who lost the houses in the fire and then all the belongings in the flood.



The Operational Team is at the moment discussing with different donors the possibilities of providing food for the camp population until they return to the original settlement, but the Red Cross of Montenegro is aware of the immediate need and through this operation plans to bridge the one month gap until other solutions are found. The operation would provide all the affected population with one hot meal per day for one month. Here is the planned distribution:

Item	Unit	Number	No. of people supported
Food for adults (for one month)	meals	2100	700
Food for children 0-1 (one month)	meal	1500	50
Food for children 1-3 (one month)	meal	2400	80
Mattresses	pcs	500	500
Plastic sheet for floors	Square metre	1000	80 families

This amount of food will be sufficient for one month. The Red Cross of Montenegro will procure the necessary food items for food preparation and use the field kitchen where all the food will be prepared by four professionals.



The adults will be receiving one hot meal per day – cabbage, beans, rice etc. Children will be additionally receiving sweets, milk, and baby food. Red Cross staff and volunteers will distribute the prepared meals. The food distributed will meet all the nutrition requirements (according to the minimum standards – 2.100 Kcal/ person/ day, 10% of total energy provided by protein, 17% of the total energy provided by fat).

In order to transport the prepared meals from the field kitchen to the temporary settlement, the Red Cross will rent a special vehicle that fulfils all conditions for sanitary food transport.

Upon the return to the original premises, with the provision of the accommodation containers, the population will be able to prepare its own food as they will be getting the equipment to do so alongside the electrical and other installations that are all at the moment out of their reach.

## The proposed operation

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Outcome: Immediate food and non food needs for 830 people will be met through distribution of hot meals for one month, mattress and plastic sheeting**

**Outputs** The needs of 150 families are met

#### Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- All the affected population is provided with the necessary emergency relief items.
- Continuous cooperation with local crisis headquarters and other partners at the field.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

The National Society's Headquarters, in close cooperation with the IFRC, 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:**

- In Montenegro: Montenegro Red Cross Goran Petrusic DM Coordinator +382 69 023 333; email [goran.petrusic@ckcg.co.me](mailto:goran.petrusic@ckcg.co.me)
- In Belgrade Country delegation: Uroš Smiljanić, Head of Office phone: +381 11 32 82 202; email: [uros.smiljanic@ifrc.org](mailto:uros.smiljanic@ifrc.org), Nebojsa Medojevic, Disaster Management officer, email: [nebojsa.medojevic@ifrc.org](mailto:nebojsa.medojevic@ifrc.org)
- In the Europe Zone Office: Alberto Monguzzi, Acting Disaster Management coordinator; office phone: +36 1 8884 500; email: [alberto.monguzzi@ifrc.org](mailto:alberto.monguzzi@ifrc.org)
- In Geneva: Cristina Estrada, Operations Support, Phone: +41.22.730.4260, email: [cristina.estrada@ifrc.org](mailto:cristina.estrada@ifrc.org)



**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.

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

**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.

# DREF OPERATION

9/24/2012

## DREF OPERATION

## Montenegro Floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	17,400
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	53,950
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>71,350</b>
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	1,800
Distribution & Monitoring	240
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,440
Logistics Services	
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>3,480</b>
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	3,000
Volunteers	
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>3,000</b>
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>0</b>
Travel	
Information & Public Relations	
Office Costs	360
Communications	360
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
Shared Office and Services Costs	
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>720</b>
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme and Services Support Recovery	5,106
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>5,106</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>83,656</b>



# Montenegro: Floods

