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Operation Update Report

Albania: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRAL008 Operation update n° 2	GLIDE n° EQ-2019-000157-ALB
Date of issue: 30 September 2020	Timeframe covered by this update: 1 May 2020- 31 August 2020
Operation start date: 29 November 2019	Operation timeframe: 15 months (extended from 12 months) until 28 February 2021
Funding requirements (CHF): 5.1 million Funding coverage as of 31 August 2020: 71% ¹	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; Belgian Red Cross (Flanders); British Red Cross; Bulgarian Red Cross; Canadian Red Cross; The Red Cross Society of the Republic of China and its branches (Hong Kong and Taiwan); Croatian Red Cross; Danish Red Cross; German Red Cross; Hellenic Red Cross; Italian Red Cross; Iraqi Red Crescent; Japanese Red Cross; Liechtenstein Red Cross; Monaco Red Cross; Red Cross of Montenegro; The Netherlands Red Cross; Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Red Cross Society of The Republic of North Macedonia; Singapore Red Cross, Red Cross of Serbia; Slovenian Red Cross; Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross ;and Turkish Red Crescent.</p>	
<p>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Government of Albania (GoA), European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), 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> <p>Governments: Canadian Government (via Canadian RC), DFID - British Government, Government of Cyprus, European Commission - DG ECHO, Danish Government (via Danish Red Cross), Government of Flanders, German Government, Irish Government, Lithuania Government, Luxembourg Government, Government of Malta, Monaco Government, Netherlands Government (via Netherlands Red Cross), Poland Government, Republic of Korea Government, Government of Romania, Spanish Government, Swiss Government.</p> <p>Corporate donors: Lufthansa Industry Solutions, Statkraft, Shell Global, Verbund AG, Zurich Foundation</p>	

¹ Excluding bilateral support.

Summary of major developments

This Operations Update is to report the progress in the implementation of activities and changing needs on the ground, covering the period from **1 May 2020 – 31 August 2020**.

Through this update, the timeframe of the Emergency Appeal Operation is extended by three months (i.e. from 30 November 2020 until 28 February 2021). The main reason for the extension is that the implementation of some activities has been significantly affected and slowed down by the COVID-19 lockdown earlier this year and the various restrictions imposed until today. These had a direct impact on the progress of the activities and the ARC's ability to reach out and deliver some of the planned services to the people in need, particularly in relation to the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)/ cash cheques distribution which has started only in June . Additionally, PSS activities and other related activities with physical community participation have been postponed, including DRR activities at schools. Through the 3-month timeframe extension, all planned activities under the areas of intervention would be achieved.

Operational highlights from the reporting period:

- After the completion of the 3rd rounds of CVA (through cash cheques distribution modality) and based on the post distribution evaluation results and the identified needs, it was decided to continue with the 4th and 5th tranches of unconditional cash assistance to the group of 1,100 HHs that were selected for CVA support. This will be made possible through new donations to the IFRC appeal that will cover half of the 4th tranche, while the rest of the amount will be covered through bilateral funds donated to ARC.
- Due to the unprecedented pandemic situation, some of the community-based activities such as DRR activities in schools, several trainings for volunteers and simulation exercises and as well FA/CBFA trainings could not be carried out as planned in the initial proposal and are planned for October/November. Some of the community based activities (such as PSS activities, Household visits) that required direct interaction with beneficiaries and face-to face meetings have been either delayed, re-designed or replaced by other online/ virtual forms of support including a hotline created to handle advices and questions due to the limitations caused by the current pandemic to ensure safety measures are respected. As for the workshops and training sessions, some of them were replaced by online training sessions.
- Some of the activities related to strengthening of NS capacities and structure, such as warehouse reconstruction, the establishment of the Emergency Operations Centre and building the NS contingency stock have been delayed due to the lockdown and are expected to be finalized in the next coming months.

Due to the modifications in the planned activities and in their implementation timeframe, the respective budget lines had to be adjusted reflecting the above-mentioned changes. The Operational budget has been revised due to new income (funding) received during the reporting period, and revisiting/ replacing some activities as a consequence of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

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 responding to the needs of the people affected. 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 are 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 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.

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, and shelter.

National Society response to date:

Livelihoods and basic needs

Although food distribution was completed in April 2020, some 140 families have been assisted beyond April with standard food packages from ARC stock. Those families were identified as extremely vulnerable during a household assessment that was conducted by ARC mobile teams in the affected areas of Kruje, Tirana, Durres and Lac.

ARC response as of 31 August 2020 is indicated in the dashboard below.

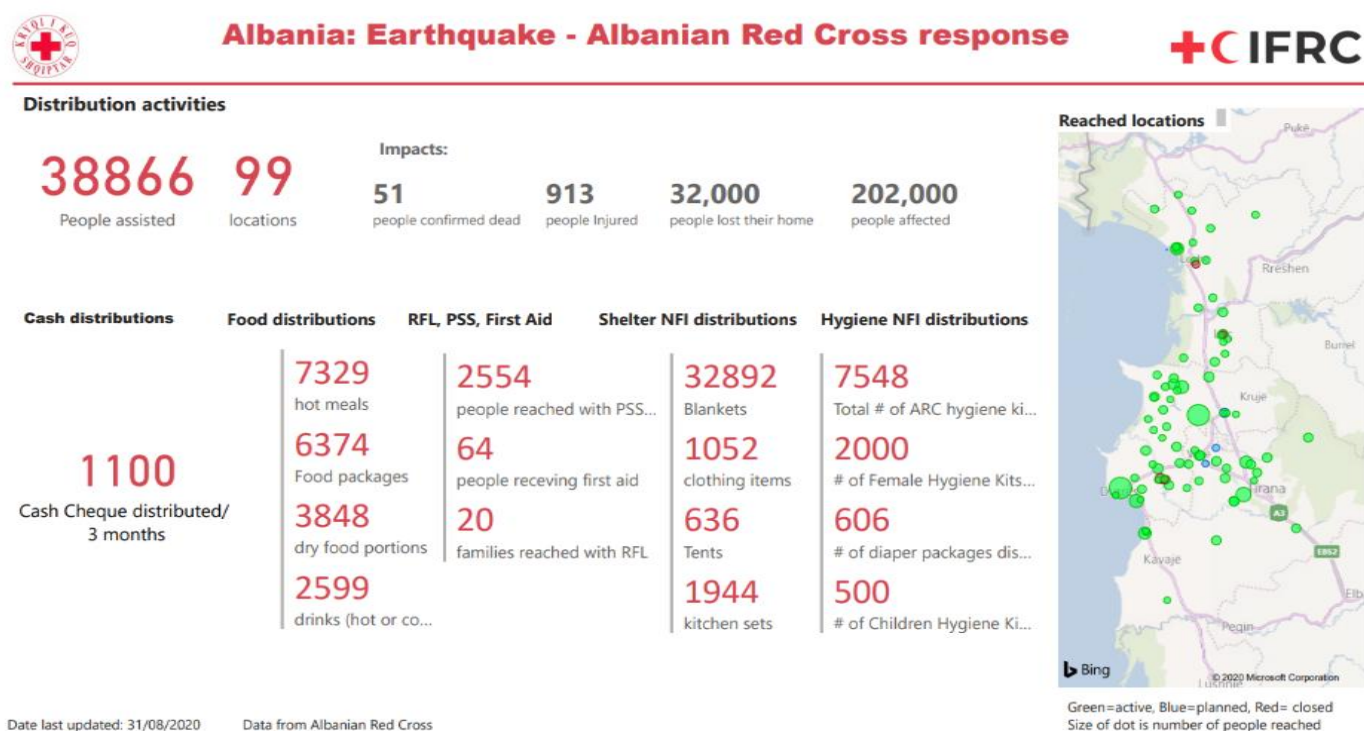


Figure 1 – Dashboard summarizing the Albanian Red Cross response from November 2019- August 2020. Average household size: 4.

The Albanian Red Cross with the support from IFRC distributed Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in an amount of CHF 1.2 million in three tranches targeting 1,100 households (HHs) affected by the earthquake in November 2019. Each of the selected HHs received 3 unconditional / multipurpose cash grant over the period of 3 months.

The table on top on next page provides details on the distributed amount.

Table 1: Cash grant distribution for the operation

Month/ Tranche	Distribution Time	Amount (LEK)	Amount (CHF)
June,2020 (1 st Tr.)	09 Jun- 30 Jun	47,110,400	405,227
July,2020 (2 nd Tr.)	14 Jul - 06 Aug	46,988,000	400,699
August,2020 (3 rd Tr.)	18 August - 30 Aug	46,933,600	402,716
Total		141,032,000²	1,208,642

Bank cheques were selected as the distribution modality. The cheques were distributed to 1,100 HH representatives, who could encash their cheques in the bank by showing their national ID card to prove their identity. ARC monitored the daily the number of encashments throughout the process. During the reporting period, all 1,100 HH have received and encashed their cheques for all 3 rounds of distribution.

During the distribution, an exit survey was conducted through trained volunteers of ARC and 26% HHs (sample) participated in the survey.

Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) was also conducted in July and August (after one month of distribution of each tranche), on a sample of 20% HHs. After analyzing the survey results, it has been found that most of the HHs spent the money on food (93%), health and medicine (64%), paying debt (25%), paying house rent (15%), repairing their house (5%) and other (5%).

Hotline services (toll free number) were also established in the Headquarter of ARC. More than 250 phone calls were received and HHs communicated their satisfaction as well as posing questions or asking for information. Some of the HHs also asked why they were not selected for the cash support. In these cases, ARC has provided an appropriate explanation and described the HH selection criteria as needed. ARC has employed a full-time dedicated staff for the hotline service.



Bank cheque distribution by ARC staff and volunteers.
Photo: ARC

During the assessment phase, a total of 1,626 HH assessment interviews were conducted using the 'Kobo' system in the 6 most affected areas of Laç, Krujë, Shijak, Durrës, Vore, Kamez, Tirana of Albania and finally 1,100 HHs were selected based on the selection criteria. All aspect of CVA activities (from HH selection to distribution) were completed according to the approved Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs). A leaflet describing the details of the CVA support i.e. selection criteria, hotline number, amount of money distributed to each HH, procedure for encashment etc. was distributed among HHs to provide a good understanding of the CVA program.

More than 90 volunteers from different ARC branches and 15 staffs were oriented/ trained on the 'Kobo' system, CVA basics as well as on the process and procedure. IFRC was involved and provided technical support throughout the CVA process.

Health and PSS

Despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, the Multifunctional Mobile Teams equipped with PPE have continued the provision of limited PSS-related activities. Until 31 August 2020, 322 persons with different psychological issues were assisted with Psychological First Aid and other PSS interventions by the Mobile teams in Tirana, Durres, and Kruje.

During the reporting period, two series/types of PSS trainings were held;

- **Four “Refresher trainings on Psychological First Aid (PFA)”** involving seven affected branches (Tirana, Kruje, Shijak, Durres, Lezhe, Lac and Shkoder) with participation of 48 volunteers; and
- **one “Training of Trainers (ToT)”** in July with participation of 18 ARC staff and volunteers.

In addition, the Handbook on PFA and the two manuals for ToT were translated and adapted to Albanian from materials developed by the PSS Reference Centre, while four leaflets and 500 PSS T-shirts on PSS aspect are printed and handed out especially for volunteers.

² The number of HH is fixed to 1100 HH per round of distribution, however, a small number of targeted families has changed due reallocation/ death/ etc. and the number of people per family can vary. therefore, some minor changes in the total amount per round occurs.

Shelter

A donation of 52 shelter Units was provided by 'Better shelter RHU AB' Sweden to contribute to the improvement of the shelter conditions of affected households who are still living in summer tents in affected areas, by replacing them with the donated Shelter Units.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC, via its Country team in Albania and Europe regional office team has continued its support in the implementation of EA activities. For the period reported, the focus and support were mostly dedicated to CVA ,PSS activities and strengthening NS capacity. The IFRC delegates worked in close cooperation with their counterparts based on a sectoral approach.

Other movement partners (Partner NS) who were in the country at the beginning of the operation have already finalized their missions and during the reporting period there was no other Partner NS in country.

The Regional Office for Europe (ROE) based in Budapest, has maintained regular contact with the NS both at the senior management and operational level, providing also technical and expert support where needed. Cooperation and collaboration at all levels and especially at Sectors has been the main achievement.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Albanian authorities have been in charge of national coordination in response to the disaster, though 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. AS a recent development, the Albanian Council of Ministers allocated \$ 140 million for reconstruction to the municipality of Tirana.³

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, 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.

In total, the EU contribution to the Albanian government for Reconstruction reached the value of 115 million euros. The Council of the European Union has approved the revised Budget 2020, approving the transfer of the fund of 100 million euros promised for Albania.⁴ The rest of the commitment in the amount of 15 million euros will go to the reconstruction of 22 schools selected by the EU through UNDP in Albania.

The Swiss and Albanian governments have signed an agreement for 1.3 million Euros for the rehabilitation of houses. The agreement will enable the rehabilitation and improvement of housing conditions for about 560 families.

In August, GoA and Caritas Albania have signed an agreement for the financing of two programs of Reconstruction, respectively Cash support program - for 334 families affected by the earthquake and Construction program including reconstruction of 100 housing units with the value of 152.7 million ALL.

The Albanian Development Fund has already signed a contract with the builders for 677 individual apartments in Shijak and Kavaja and the first foundations will be opened next week.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs assessment and targeting

Livelihoods: The loss and damage of property had a long term economic impact on the affected families, many of whom have been incapable of recovering on their own without support. The economic impact of COVID-19 has further affected the population and made them more vulnerable, as many people lost their income during the pandemic.

Based on the increased needs, ARC has decided to extend CVA program for 2 more months to further support the most affected 1,100 families. The satisfactions surveys and the post distribution monitoring results were taken into consideration for deciding on the program extension.

PSS: The impact and the trauma caused by the earthquake has been exacerbated by a high degree of uncertainty and

³ Source: Albanian Ministry of reconstruction

⁴ Source: Albanian Ministry of reconstruction

stress within the affected population caused by COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, the need for further PSS support was identified, as well strengthening the NSs capacity in this area both at HQ and branch level.

Disaster risk reduction (DRR): Existing Governmental and ARC contingency plans in Albania were activated right after the earthquake but have proven to be incomprehensive and not appropriately implementable. Therefore, there is a need to review ARC contingency planning and clarify the roles and responsibilities in the GoA-led inter-agency cooperation and coordination in country.

In addition, the level of disaster preparedness on community and household-level was low, which became apparent in the initial reaction of the population to the events. The scope / methodology of DRR activities at community and household-level implemented previously appear insufficient. As an example, more than 50% of schools in Albania do not have contingency plans in place, or do not know about its existence or how to implement. There is an apparent need to update contingency plans in schools as part of their preparedness, and to review and scale up community-based DRR activities, e.g. by creating family contingency plans. As auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, one of the primary roles of the NS is to coordinate and provide disaster response services.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Implemented strategy

The revised emergency appeal⁵ plan of action aims at meeting immediate needs and supporting the early and mid-term 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 targeted groups through this operation included people whose homes were damaged (collapsed, severely damaged or lightly damaged) and are vulnerable due to having lost a family member, low level of income, and household composition (disability, single female heads of household, older people, pregnant women).

This Emergency Appeal has been contributing 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.

More than 20,000 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 number of households supported through unconditional CVA 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 in the plan.

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. 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.

⁵ The Emergency Appeal operation was revised on 14 February 2020.

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	4,000	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	20,000	20,000

Progress towards outcomes

52 shelter units were donated by “Better shelter RHU AB” Sweden and habitat to contribute to the improvement of the shelter conditions of the affected households, who are still being accommodated in summer tents in the affected areas, by replacing them with those Shelter Units which were donated to ARC .

Experts from the “Better shelter RHU AB” organized a training for the team composed of Albanian RC staff and volunteers how to set up the shelter units.

Challenges/ constraints

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the distribution and the set-up of 52 shelter units have been delayed for a few months. And is foreseen in October/November.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 20,000
Male: 9,894⁶
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	1,100

Progress towards outcomes

⁶ Sex disaggregation numbers in all sectors are currently based on data collected in KoBo system.

The food distribution was completed in April 2020, nevertheless, some 140 additional extremely vulnerable families have been assisted beyond April with standard food packages from ARC stock. Those families in need were identified during the family assessment from mobile teams in the affected areas of Kruje, Tirana, Durres and Lac.

After the finalization of households` selection based on the defined criteria, Albanian Red Cross with the support from IFRC provided cash assistance targeting 1,100 households affected by the earthquake.

The first round of distribution took place from the 9 to 30 June 2020. The second round of distribution was completed at the end of July and third round of distribution was completed on 31 August. A total of CHF 1.2 million was distributed in the three tranches.



Bank cheque distribution by ARC staff and volunteers. Photo: ARC

Each of the selected households received three unconditional / multipurpose cash grants over the period of three months. The selected HHs are DS4 and DS5 category.

Challenges/ constraints

Hiring of 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: After long negotiations with the selected FSP regarding the contractual details of the cash distribution, Albanian Red Cross has made the decision not to move on in the collaboration with this provider. This decision came since the agency has been procrastinating and did not show sufficient level of seriousness and interest in this collaboration.

As an alternative solution to move as quickly as possible with the cash distribution, ARC together with the IFRC country team have decided to use bank cheques modality (directly from the ARC bank account opened specifically for the CVA program). ARC has a previous experience using this modality, which has led to a smooth and successful implementation of the three planned rounds of distribution during the reporting period.

To mitigate the risk of the COVID 19 infection among ARC staff and volunteers as well as the recipients during the distributions, PPEs (i.e. gloves, mask) were distributed for the selected households, physical distance was maintained and the households were invited for the distributions in pre-set time slots to avoid multiple people`s gathering.

It was noticed during the first round of distribution that some of the selected HHs left country. To overcome this challenge, HHs were selected from the waiting list based on criteria scoring system.



Health

People reached: 2,876
Male: 1,802
Female: 916

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
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# of people reached with home visits	2,000	700
# 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	2,876
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 group PSS sessions	140	166
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>Until 31 August 2020, the following trainings were organized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refresher trainings on Psychological First Aid (PFA) - Four trainings were conducted from 23 June to 2 July (three different locations involving seven branches - Tirana, Kruje, Shijak, Durres, Lezhe, Lac and Shkoder) with the participation of 48 volunteers. The trainings follow the three PFA action principles: LOOK, LISTEN & LINK and is based on the PSS intervention principles (identified by Hobfoll et. Al.) – Safety, Calming, Self- and Collective Efficacy, Connectedness and Hope. - Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted from 14 to 17 July (four days) with the participation of 18 staff and volunteers. Participants were selected by the branches in accordance with criteria set by Albanian RC. Themes covered were: Crisis events and Psychosocial Support, Stress and Coping, Loss and Grief, Community Based Psychosocial Support, Psychological First Aid and Supportive Communication, Children, Supporting Volunteers and Staff with participation of 18 staff and volunteers. <p>To support the PSS program development, PSS training manuals and Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials are printed and handed out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four leaflets, in total 20,000 pcs, 5,000 per each: 1) Coping with stress 2) Children's stress 3) PFA 4) Working in stressful situations. Psychological First Aid are printed and handed out especially for volunteers. They are sent via poste to branches that are not affected by the earthquake and are handed out to the affected branches during CASH distribution. - A Handbook on PFA (28 pages) has been translated and printed in 2,000 copies to be handed out to all volunteers who intervene with beneficiaries and a stock will be kept at HQ. - Trainer's manual + Participant's manual has been translated and printed each in 50 copies – one set for each of the 38 branches and a stock will be kept at HQ. - 500 PSS T-shirts were designed and distributed to all branches. <p>In addition, PSS messages for social media have been made and translated into Albanian and on the Facebook page of the ARC. Information and photos on all the organized trainings have been posted on Facebook and a special session about PSS is published in ARC magazine.</p> <p>Due to the restrictions taken for COVID-19 outbreak, only 60 families (some 322 people) have been reached with PSS by Mobile Teams in the affected areas.</p>		
Challenges/ constraints		
<p>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. therefore, the activities have significantly slowed down during the lockdown months and were re-initiated around mid-May 2020.</p>		



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.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there are no direct hygiene promotion activities implemented during this reporting period.

Two leaflets to promote personal and community hygiene are adapted and translated into Albanian and are ready to be printed and distributed in the following months.

Challenges/ constraints

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and 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

No RFL services or activities were provided during first stage of the operation (November / December 2019). However, there was no missing persons reported between family members During the reporting period.

To strengthen the NS capacity in provision of 'RFL in emergencies', some RFL backpack kits are being procured locally, which will be used by local branches for future response actions.



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. However, the **most of DRR planned activities have not been implemented during the reporting period** due to the restrictions introduced for COVID-19 outbreak.

In August 2020, a meeting was organized with the National Agency of Civil Protection to discuss the implementation of DRR activities mostly in the schools which will be finalised on 13 October being the international day of DRR. It is planned that 52 schools will be involved in DRR activities with the participation of 38 Red Cross branches.

DRR Activities foreseeing include:

- In preparation for October DRR event, a Training of representatives/secretaries from 38 RC branches is planned targeting 200 of ARC staff and volunteers.
- Set up a committee/team composed of teachers and student 10-12 persons in each school and train them on DRR;
- Those school teams will present DRR to all teacher and students in the respective schools;
- Simulation safety regulation and evacuation exercise will take place in each school on 13 October 2020;
- 12 main RC Branches in Prefecture level, will set up a tent in middle square Municipalities and promote DRR knowledge, and do same simulation exercises for earthquake scenarios;
- printing and distributing posters, leaflets and disaster risk reductions information

Challenges/ constraints

Due to the restriction introduced for COVID-19 outbreak, all planned activities on DRR were postponed and will be implemented from September 2020 onward with the re-opening of the schools country-wide.

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	166

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

Two important series of PSS trainings for volunteers have been conducted in the reporting period, respectively refresher trainings on PFA and a Training of Trainers (ToT)” (described under the health section above). The trainings have been facilitated jointly by the ARC PSS focal point and the IFRC PSS delegate.

Significant improvements have been achieved in data management and mobile data collection with the support of the CVA delegate. Involved ARC volunteers are familiar with and can use the KoBo platform.

The ARC contingency plan is currently in the process of being revised and updated as part of the EA activities.

To complement the existing project titled “Building communication and coordination capacities for efficient preparedness and response in South Eastern Europe”, the ARC Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at HQ is already established and is in process of the purchasing the necessary IT equipment. In addition, three EOC-s in local branches are being established.

In the framework of strengthening the ARC’s logistics capacity, existing vehicles have been inspected and repaired, and three new vehicles have been purchased (one mini cargo truck and two passengers’ vehicles).

As part of the activities to strengthen NS capacity, repairment and rehabilitation of ARC NHQ premises took place with complete rehabilitation of HQ offices affected by the EQ. the work included repairing cracks, checking the stabilization of some walls, painting and adapting space for EOC.

In addition, Albanian RC is in the process of reconstructing its central warehouse which was damaged by the earthquake. A construction engineer is preparing the construction plan and respective estimated costs. According to the preliminary evaluation, the total cost might be higher than the first estimation. The tendering process has been initiated for this activity, and the expected starting date will be around mid-October.

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.

During the reporting period the following IFRC profiles have been providing support to the operation in-country, based in Tirana: Operations Manager, Finance Admin. Delegate, CVA Delegate and PSS Delegate.

In order to increase the fleet capacity of the ARC, two vehicles were bought with the amount of CHF 49,664 and reported by ARC in August 2020.

The IFRC country team is currently in contact with Global Fleet team in order to support the NS in the development of their fleet management system and the standard operating procedures.

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, Training and capacity building plans were also affected by the current epidemic situation. The IFRC ROE and Albanian Red Cross communication teams are working on a video that showcases the cash and voucher assistance provided to the affected people.

Challenges/ constraints

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, no PMER missions are foreseen until the end of 2020. Two more communications missions were foreseen during the operation timeframe, but they had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. However, remote communication support is ensured to the ARC and the country team.

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 internal audit process carried out	1	0

Output S4.1.4: Staff security is prioritised in all IFRC activities

Progress towards outcomes

The IFRC, via its Country delegation team in Albania, has continued its support in the implementation of EA activities. For the period reported, the focus and support were mostly dedicated to CVA / voucher distribution/ and PSS activities. The IFRC delegates worked in close cooperation with their counterparts based on a sectoral approach.

Technical assistance from IFRC ROE was provided since the beginning of the implementation of the emergency appeal on operational management and coordination, 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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In the IFRC Secretariat in Geneva

- Antoine Belair, Senior Officer, Operations Coordinator; antoine.belair@ifrc.org

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.**

Emergency Appeal

interim FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/11-2020/08	Operation	mdral008
Budget Timeframe	2019-2020	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 21 Sep 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 21 Sep 2020	3,619,604
Appeal Coverage	70.97%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	69,230	0	69,230
AOF2 - Shelter	239,613	118,638	120,975
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	2,199,883	1,942,220	257,662
AOF4 - Health	196,708	75,931	120,777
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	50,374	37,636	12,738
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	17,293	0	17,293
AOF7 - Migration	0	0	0
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	360,799	1,167	359,632
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	262,196	121,791	140,406
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	36,561	11	36,550
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	187,049	83,925	103,123
Grand Total	3,619,706	2,381,319	1,238,387

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2020/08

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	3,619,704
Expenditure	-2,381,319
Closing Balance	1,238,384
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	1,238,384

IV. DREF Loan

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

interim FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/11-2020/08	Operation	mdral008
Budget Timeframe	2019-2020	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 21 Sep 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	189,761				189,761		
Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)	13,489				13,489		
British Government		79,389			79,389		
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		
European Commission - DG ECHO	322,524				322,524		
German Red Cross	4,998	76,894			81,892		
German Red Cross (from German Government*)	160,667				160,667		
Government of Malta	53,471				53,471		
Government of Romania	106,402				106,402		
Great Britain - Private Donors	1,663				1,663		
Iraqi Red Crescent Society	929				929		
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		
Swiss Red Cross (from Caritas Internationalis*)	166,000				166,000		
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		
The Republic of Cyprus	21,400				21,400		
United States - Private Donors	96				96		
Verbund	21,787				21,787		
Total Contributions and Other Income	3,463,420	156,283	0	0	3,619,704	0	
Total Income and Deferred Income					3,619,704	0	