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# Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Hungary: Floods Preparedness

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRHU002**  
**GLIDE n° CW-2013-000031-HUN**  
**7<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of unearmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross 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 52,487 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Hungarian Red Cross Society in strengthening their disaster response preparedness and in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,500 families potentially affected by the imminent floods on the river Danube. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** The flood wave on the Danube river reached Hungarian territory on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013. It is expected to reach the capital city of Budapest on 9<sup>th</sup> June. In the afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup> June a state of emergency was declared in three north-western counties along the river (Győr-Moson-Sopron, Komárom-Esztergom and Pest) as well as in Budapest. Around 100 people have been preventively evacuated from three municipalities in these regions in the early hours on 5<sup>th</sup> June. A high number of people is to be evacuated, and vast areas are likely to get under water in the days to come. The Hungarian Red Cross is working together with the local authorities and the specialized agency for emergencies, the National Disaster Management Directorate of Hungary, participating in joint defence and support activities.



Hungarian Red Cross Director General is supporting volunteers in Budapest.

*Photo: Hungarian Red Cross*

This operation is expected to be implemented over one month, and will therefore be completed by 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, by 6<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

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

## The situation

After the devastation in Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic, the extreme floods of the Central European river systems reached Hungary on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2013. The Hungarian Red Cross has been put on alert so as to assist with the defence preparation and response, supporting Governments operations. Authorities expect the highest water peaks for 9<sup>th</sup> June at the Budapest section of the river Danube.

Authorities issued a red alert for the three counties of Komárom-Esztergom, Győr-Moson-Sopron and Pest, and the capital city of Budapest, which is also a titular county in administrative terms. In these four counties the preparation defence work must be finished by Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, when the high waters are expected to peak in these areas.

Almost 9 thousand people are currently working at the dykes and around 3 thousand volunteers are helping flood prevention efforts, A further 16 thousand officers are in reserve from the defence force, police, civil protection and civil guard authorities. At the moment there is a flood alert along 760 kilometres of the Danube and the national technical management corps (OMIT) has set up sandbag-filling areas in 16 locations. The Government Spokesperson announced that as an EU member state, Hungary may request aid from EU solidarity funds, already demanded by Germany, the Czech Republic and Austria, in order to cover the costs of remediation works after the flood, and asked enterprises and private individuals to submit their claims for damages to the Ministry of Interior.

The evacuation of 55 thousand people along the Római Part stretch of the River Danube, a residential area in northern Budapest, can probably be prevented by elevating the dyke there, Budapest Mayor István Tarlós said today. A total of 30 thousand sandbags have already been placed along the dyke and another 30 thousand bags were prepared during the night, Tarlós said. On Margaret Island, which was closed on Tuesday, 200 thousand sandbags have been deposited and the island will remain protected as long as the water level stays below 900 cm. According to the latest data, water levels have risen to 826 centimetres at Nagybjacs, 721 at Komárom, 667 at Esztergom, 592 at Nagymaros, and 727 cm at Budapest. The peak forecast in all critical locations exceeds the highest water level ever measured in Hungary.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Hungarian Red Cross has been part of the joint defence and response efforts together with the Hungarian National Disaster Management Directorate, the Army, and the National Ambulance Service.

The leadership and the head of disaster management (DM) of the Hungarian Red Cross Society have been liaising with the National Directorate General for Disaster Management of Hungary and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Hungarian RC has set up a crisis room at the National Headquarters (NHQ) and started to develop an action plan. For fund-raising in support of the affected population, the helpline “1359” was activated and it will stay in operation until 7<sup>th</sup> June under Government orders, when all support lines will be integrated in one national support line.



Volunteer registration point on Margaret Island, Budapest.  
Photo: Hungarian Red Cross

The Hungarian RC is an active member of the National Disaster Management Committee, has a defined role in disaster response and coordinates, as an umbrella organisation, the work of other volunteers and civil organizations that are supporting the operations.

With the help of the telecom provider Telenor Hungary, the Hungarian Red Cross is capable of ensuring cellular phone communication among its units with a band-width booster, which can be used in this operation. Coca-Cola Hungary is also supporting the Hungarian Red Cross with in-kind donations.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Hungarian National Disaster Management Directorate issued an alert to the Hungarian Red Cross on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013 to respond to the coming floods. The Hungarian Red Cross immediately mobilized its volunteers and disaster rescue and response teams and deployed them to the severely affected sites all over the country. A core of 200 volunteers of the disaster teams and 40 staff of the local branches, supported by many other Red Cross volunteers, have been on duty since the flood alert. On 5<sup>th</sup> June only, the Hungarian Red Cross assisted over 1,100 beneficiaries with over 250 volunteers in the four affected counties.

Currently the Hungarian Red Cross is working in the defence operation with over 500 volunteers helping to fill sandbags, delivering tea, food and coffee to the responders. There are also first aid teams ready to assist in Pest County and Budapest.

According to the national evacuation plans, the maximum number of people expected to be evacuated are as follows. The Hungarian Red Cross will have a key role in case of evacuation with sheltering, psychosocial support and food.

Győrújfalú	1,424,	Tahitótfalu	1,415
Komárom	11,345	Pócsmegyer	2,047
<i>(including a hospital)</i>		Szigetmonostor	2,435
Almásfüzitő	2,097	Szentendre	873
Tát	5,057	Budapest District 3	55,300

The Disaster Management Coordinator from the IFRC Europe Zone Office has been present in the crisis team of the Hungarian Red Cross supporting activities. The IFRC Europe Zone Office participated in the assessment of the situation.

As it had been anticipated in May 2013, the floods have arrived after a wet spring and heavy rainfalls, and the disaster food stocks will indeed be utilised, as well as the Federation support will be resorted to by the insurance cover for 200 volunteers now working in the flood operations.

## The needs

Currently, around 6,500 residents are at immediate risk of being affected by the forthcoming floods. Needs among the affected population are for food items, cleaning kits and camp beds for setting up collective shelter in case of a massive evacuation. The Hungarian National Society has already created some emergency stocks of food items with the previous DREF allocation in March; therefore only the non-food type items need to be procured for the current floods operation.

To provide effective response at all levels, the Hungarian Red Cross emergency volunteers` teams need to possess the following items:

- 1,500 house-cleaning kits
- 500 camp beds
- 300 personal protective kits for volunteers
- 16 life vests for beneficiaries in the rescue boats (8 for each boat)
- 4 rescue vests for the rescue boats` teams
- 2 diving suits

The evacuated population will be returning to their homes after the water recedes and, having most of their belongings like blankets, mattresses, food etc. destroyed or washed away, the planned assistance will also aim at providing them with basic items needed to get through the coming weeks.

There are still a number of families expected to be reported as affected. Their number can only be determined at a later stage.

The needs in the Hungarian Red Cross are related to the preparedness and the support of the flood affected people by house-cleaning kits, sheltering equipment, and camp beds.

## The proposed operation

### Shelter

**Outcome: Resilience of the potentially affected communities is increased by a prepositioning of cleaning kits for 1,500 households and appropriate emergency shelter**

**Outputs: Access to shelter items for 1,500 people is ensured during the period of floods.**

**Activities planned:**

- Local procurement of emergency items and prepositioning at central and regional warehouses of the Hungarian Red Cross
- Procurement of essential equipment and materials to increase Red Cross disaster response capacity and sheltering capacities via a procurement of 500 bed camps
- Advancing to the affected regions
- Coordination with local emergency departments and local authorities
- Prepositioning of procured materials within an easy reach of the affected areas
- Preparation of distribution plan according to the existing contingency plan
- Monitoring of procurement and supply chain

The table below lists the contents of the cleaning kit that the Hungarian Red Cross will be prepositioning for assisting the most vulnerable floods-affected people:

Item	No. of units
Disinfectant	1
Sponge	1
Brush	1
Garbage bag roll	1

### Early warning, disaster response preparedness

**Outcome: The operational capacities in the country are strengthened to cope with the forthcoming floods**

**Output 1: Hungarian Red Cross has mobilized its teams, volunteers and materials for effective response**

**Activities planned:**

- Pre-position the supplies and materials in the regional Red Cross branches
- Mobilize and equip volunteers, including insurance, uniforms and visibility markers

**Output 2: Awareness material will be distributed as prevention in the affected area**

**Activities planned:**

- Production and dissemination of awareness materials
- Coordination with local emergency departments and local authorities
- Monitoring and reporting

The Hungarian Red Cross Headquarters, in close cooperation with IFRC Europe Zone Office, will monitor the progress of the operation and will provide the necessary technical expertise. The hydro-meteorological situation will be reported on, and when the floods materialize, the Hungarian National Society will consider a revision of the DREF operation to reflect the actual activities implemented. Weekly operation updates will be sent to the IFRC Europe Zone Office.

The visibility of the work of the Red Cross staff and volunteers will be ensured during the operation through local and international media.

## Contact information

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

- **Hungarian Red Cross Society:** Brigitta Safar, Disaster Management Coordinator;  
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**Click here**

1. Click [here](#) to see the budget of the DREF operation
  2. Click [here](#) to see the map of the affected areas
  3. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
  2. Enable healthy and safe living.
  3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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# DREF OPERATION

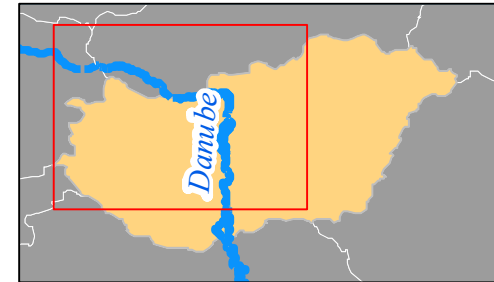
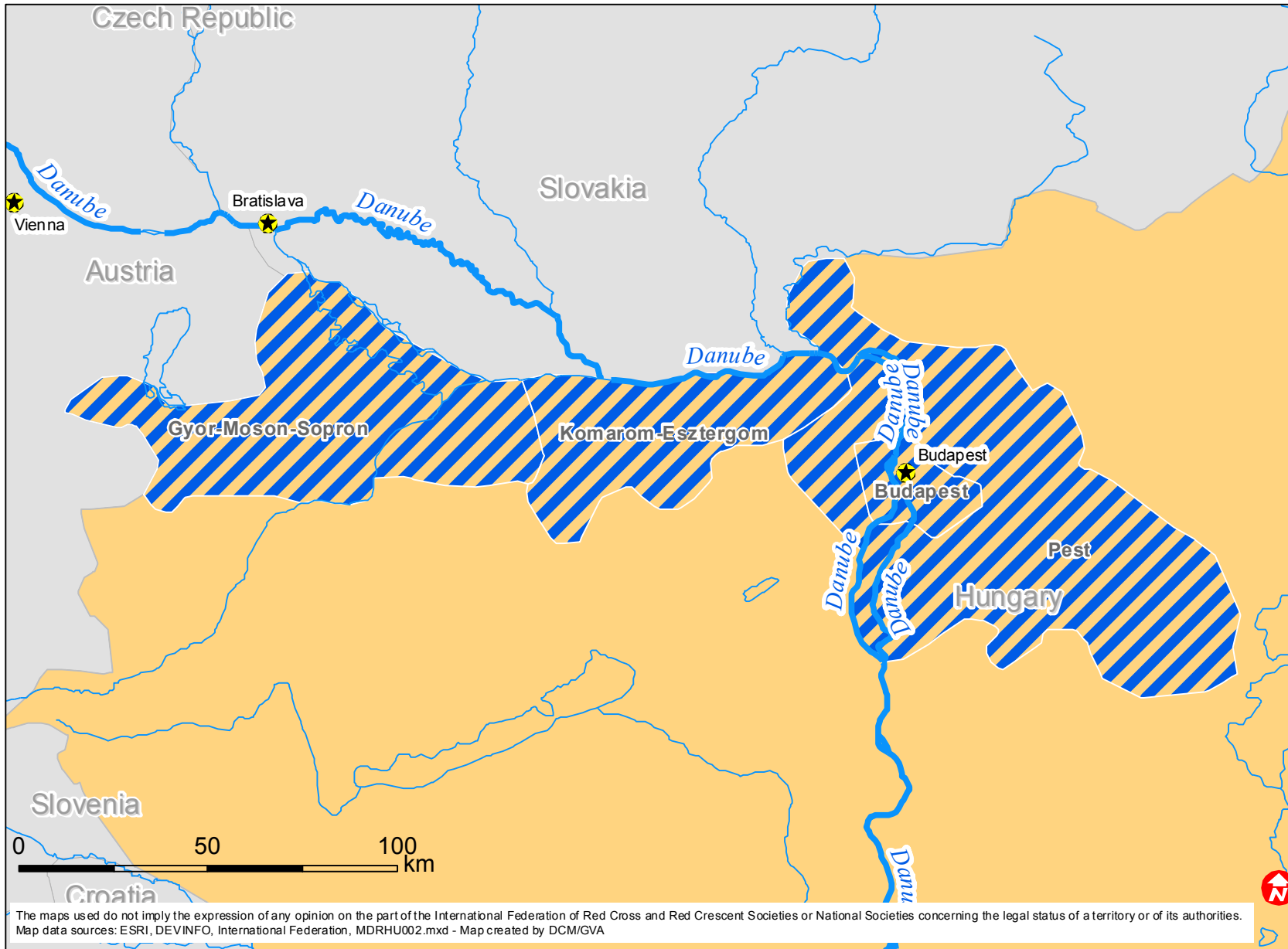
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MDRHU002 Hungary

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
Shelter - Relief	18,000
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	12,500
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	336
Cash Disbursements	
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>30,836</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	
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	
Logistics Services	
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>0</b>
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	1,100
Volunteers	14,348
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>15,448</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	1,000
Communications	2,000
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
Shared Office and Services Costs	
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,000</b>
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme and Services Support Recovery	3,203
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>3,203</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>52,487</b>



# Hungary: Floods



 Affected areas