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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Bosnia and Herzegovina: Hospital fire

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRBA008
GLIDE n° FR-2013-000089-BIH
6 August 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 39,512 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in delivering immediate assistance to some 400 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: On 26th July 2013, around 2 AM a fire started at the "Irfan Ljubijankić" cantonal hospital in Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Almost the whole complex has been ruined by the fire – the whole roof and the upper floors. The material damage is enormous. 400 patients in total have been transported to Prijedor, Sanski Most and also to Karlovac in the neighbouring Croatia. Since the first moment of the onset of the disaster, the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina 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.



Dr. Irfan Ljubijankić Canton Hospital.
Photo: Bosnia and Herzegovina Red Cross

This operation is expected to be implemented over one month, and will therefore be completed by 4th September 2013; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 4th December 2013).

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

The situation

In the night hours of 26th July 2013, the Bihać Canton hospital was engulfed in flames. According to the local media, the whole complex, including roofs and upper floors, was destroyed by the fire. After the effort of Bihać firefighters and citizens that tried to help to extinguish the fire, the blaze was finally put under control around 3.40 AM, but the damage proved to be substantial. During that time, doctors and other staff, also including brave residents, evacuated the patients from the burning hospital. According to preliminary information, the fire was first spotted in the hospital's pediatrics section. This led to the immediate evacuation of babies and children. The heat was really intensive, and on the upper parts it was hard to breathe. Staff and rescue workers put most effort into carrying out the babies' incubators.



Dr. Irfan Ljubijankić Canton Hospital.
Photo: Bosnia and Herzegovina Red Cross

After the evacuation of 400 patients which were sent to Prijedor and Sanski Most, or for some, to Karlovac in neighbouring Croatia, lifeguards tried to save the hospital equipment. By the time the fire was put out, almost the whole building was destroyed. A number of patients are still accommodated in the hospital yard. The sections which weren't damaged by the fire are Infectology, Pneumophysiology, the new objects of Dialysis and Psychiatry and the prefabricated building of the Administration which is secluded from the hospital's main building. Due to the enormous damages, there is no exact information for the time being when the hospital can be fully operational again. There are some additional objects/facilities in the Hospital area that were not destroyed in the fire, so it might be that these objects will be partially enabled for use.

Coordination and partnerships

Immediately after the devastating fire, the Director of the Hospital called for urgent meetings on 26th July 2013 with the Municipality Mayor, the Ministry of Health Representative for Una Sana Canton and the Red Cross of Bihać Municipality to investigate possible support channels from all parties. Due to insufficient resources available at the cantonal and municipal government, the stakeholders asked for possible support from the Red Cross.

Since the first meeting, the Red Cross of Bihać Municipality has been holding meetings every day with the Hospital Management to follow up on the development of the situation.

Apart from the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina, other partners have started giving cash and in-kind donations such as the below mentioned items.

- The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina made a decision to allocate KM 100,000 (approx. CHF 63,000) from the budget reserves.
- Applying an urgency procedure, the Hypo Alpe-Adria-Bank donated KM 5,000 (approx. CHF 3,150).
- The company "Bosnamed" in Sarajevo donated three units of medical equipment for the Bihać Cantonal hospital valued at KM 150,000 (approx. CHF 94,570).
- A donation of EUR 10,000 from the City of Karlovac for the Bihać Cantonal hospital.
- The Swedish Government, through its Embassy, donated some very valuable furniture and medical equipment to the Sanski Most hospital, as a receiving hospital.

Donations are still ongoing in order to get the hospital in the working state as soon as possible.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Red Cross representatives are regularly updating the situation assessment. In cooperation with authorities in charge, a checklist of the necessary actions was created. Patients and relatives have received support in establishing contacts with the authorities in charge for dealing with legal or administrative problems.

Two Multipurpose Field Teams (MPFT) from the Red Cross of Bihać Municipality and the Red Cross Branch of Una-Sana Canton were providing help when the fire was reported. Each MPFT consisted of 14 members, so in total 28 members were engaged. Apart from MPFT's there were also Red Cross volunteers engaged, who helped with the evacuation of patients from the hospital.

Immediately after being informed of the events at 02.30AM on 26th July, the Secretary of the Red Cross Bihać municipality deployed a MPFT which was fully equipped and was provided with the necessary material and technical means.

The Red Cross of Bihać Municipality provided blankets, stretchers, folded blankets for forming temporary accommodation, in addition to protective masks for fire-fighter units and members of MPFT. The whole team, which consisted of 11 members, was instructed to support those parts and sections of cantonal hospital which were not engulfed in flames. Parallel with these activities, MPFT has contributed to moving the patients to the sections of the cantonal hospital not touched by the fire, and then in cooperation with the Ambulance crew, the MPFT helped to transfer the patients in temporary accommodation which were located in the building of Ambulance Service. During the field operations, contact was established with the Civil Protection of Bihać and the fire-fighter chief of Bihać regarding the future activities of MPFT. Several steps have been made in this direction, like the delivery of water to the fire-fighters which extinguished the flames and delivery of protective masks as well. When the fire finally ceased, MPFT participated with the firemen in the extraction of material-technical means from the cantonal hospital's building. At the moment, Red Cross of Una-Sana Canton and Red Cross of Bihać Municipality are expecting detailed and specific directions regarding the future activities. The patients have been put up in the temporary accommodation at the Adil Bešić military barracks and the hospital in Sanski Most. After the evacuation of 356 patients, Civil Protection staff had a meeting and declared a state of emergency. In accordance with the request from the local authorities, the president of the Red Cross in Una-Sana Canton established contact with the director of the cantonal hospital and offered help in terms of food, manpower and the making of specification for the needs of medical equipment and other apparatus. Since the start of the emergency, work shifts have been organised among the staff of the Red Cross of Una-Sana Canton.

The needs

On the basis of the preliminary assessment prepared by the hospital, there is an urgent need for disinfection materials, adult diapers and linen sheets for beds. Disinfectants are needed for the sanitation of the rooms in those other hospitals where the patients are moved, as well as for personal hygiene.

The needs are arising due to the fact that the hospitals that have accommodated the patients do not have enough materials for their own needs let alone the unexpected large number of external patients. Medical staff are not included in this assessment.

The beneficiaries are made up of different categories of patients.

ITEMS	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
Disinfectants for sanitation	20 litres daily for 30 days	600 litres
Disinfectants personal hygiene	10 litres daily for 30 days	300 litres
Adult diapers	3 diapers for 200 patients for 30 days	18,000 pcs
Sheets for bed (linen)	4 pcs for 400 patients	1600 pcs

The proposed operation

Within the proposed operation the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina is targeting to support 400 people/patients who have been evacuated to other hospitals with essential items including linen sheets, adult diapers and disinfectants.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Outcome: 400 people will be supported by means of diapers and linen sheets distribution to cope with the hospital fire`s effects.
Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: 400 people have received non-food assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct rapid assessment and define at each hospital the moved patients that will be targeted by the operation, prepare the beneficiaries lists• Agree with the hospitals on all modalities for the distribution of the goods and for the RC action in monitoring the operation• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to hospital administration• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion
Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of disinfectants for 400 beneficiaries in the hospitals of Bihac, Sanski Most and Karlovac, for one month.
Outputs (expected results) and activities planned: 400 people have adequate personal hygiene and sanitized areas <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct rapid assessment and define for each hospital the moved patients that will be targeted by the operation, prepare the beneficiaries lists• Agree with the hospitals on all modalities for the distribution of the goods and for the RC action in monitoring the operation• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to hospital administration• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

The Bosnia and Herzegovina Red Cross Headquarters will, in close cooperation with IFRC Country Representation Europe Zone Office, monitor the progress of the operation and provide the necessary technical expertise. 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 the local and international media.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Dušan Kulušić, Secretary General;
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1. Click [here](#) to see the DREF budget
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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.

DREF OPERATION

02-08-13

Bosnia and Herzegovina Hospital fire

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	21,436
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	10,214
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	31,650
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,000
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	3,000
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	
Volunteers	50
Total PERSONNEL	50
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	1,000
Information & Public Relations	350
Office Costs	200
Communications	500
Financial Charges	350
Other General Expenses	
Shared Office and Services Costs	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	2,400
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	2,412
Total INDIRECT COSTS	2,412
TOTAL BUDGET	39,512



Bosnia and Herzegovina: Fire

