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## Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Romania: Flash Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**DREF operation n° MDRRO004**  
**GLIDE n° FF-2013-000113-ROM**  
**18 September 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 185,736 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Romanian Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 900 families (3,600 beneficiaries), mobilizing its branches in the affected territories and with the help of other stakeholders. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** Due to heavy rainfall in Romania that started on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013 and lasted for more than 48 hours, many villages in several municipalities from the counties of Galati, Tulcea and Vaslui have been flooded. The majority of these affected areas are situated in the rural and poorer part of

Romania. Some villages have become completely isolated due to the damaged and / or not accessible bridges. The rivers that

flooded were Taita in Tulcea, Suhu and Chineja in Galati. According to the information received from the Red Cross branches and the emergency departments in the affected municipalities, more than 1735 households have been affected by the flooding and 6901 people have been evacuated.

The Romanian Red Cross (RRC) has, through its branch in Galati, involved 20 volunteers and 2 staff members, who have been deployed in the most affected localities of Cuca, Pechea, Slobozia Conachi and Cuza Voda where they delivered a small humanitarian transport. There is a shortage of food and other essential goods, as the population was not prepared for such a heavy rain especially in a short period of time. The Galati branch of RRC delivered to the affected population in this area 100 kg of food, 1370 litres of bottled water, 100 pairs of rubber boots and other essential items. The situation is complicated also by the fact that many families have also been evacuated and cannot return to their homes as those are still under water. The flooding has caused extensive damage to houses and personal belongings, agricultural land, equipment and losses in livestock.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013; a Final Report will be made available two months after the end of the operation, by 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

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



Flooded villages in Romania.  
Photo: Romanian Red Cross

## The situation

Due to the heavy rainfall in Romania that started on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013 and lasted for more than 48 hours, a number of counties and many villages in several municipalities have been flooded. The majority of these affected areas are situated in the rural and poorer part of the country. The most affected municipalities are situated in the counties of Galati, Tulcea and Vaslui, which faced an unexpected heavy rainfall that was the cause of much harm. In connection with the climate change, the floods were much higher than the usual water levels normal for this season. In spite of the prompt intervention by the defence authorities, there are a lot of affected municipalities, primarily Cuca, Pechea, Slobozia Conachi and Cuza Voda. The damages are all the bigger and the rescue operation is all the harder as the concerned parts are characterized by with poverty and the lack of financial reserves.

According to the information received on 15<sup>th</sup> September from the Red Cross branches in the region and also from the Romanian Ministry of Interior, the damages were still rising. In the current situation the total number is 6,901 evacuated persons and 1,735 flooded households, in average four people in a household. Unfortunately the number of fatalities has risen to nine. Moreover, the rainfall affected also the agricultural lands. In fact, 3,043 hectares of agricultural land are flooded, which will cause a lot of side effects in the long term. On the other hand, the access to that area is difficult as there are many blocked roads and one damaged railway. Also, there are 108 affected bridges, which makes the intervention harder.

Besides damages to the households and agricultural equipment, the flooding has caused difficulties in having access to clean drinking water, as the majority of the affected areas are not connected with a water pipe system but use open wells. Due to the floods, the water in the wells has become contaminated. Therefore the Red Cross has already started distributing bottled drinking water to the most affected residents within their capacity. An additional problem in the flooded areas is the overflowing of the sewage system with raw sewage water running in the streets.

There is a concern that the flooding will have a further deteriorating effect on the socio-economic situation of the people, as the majority of affected people already belong to the poorest of the country who are not in a position to cope with the situation on their own.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Romanian Red Cross is part of the national disaster response mechanisms and is therefore participating in all emergency meetings about the planning of the response to the current emergency. The Romanian Red Cross is also participating in the local level meetings organized by the municipal disaster management department, and all activities will be carried out in coordination with them.

Furthermore, the RRC Headquarters in Bucharest has been in contact with the Red Cross branches in the affected counties and the local authorities, they are receiving first hand information from the competent authorities. In addition, the RRC is in permanent contact with the Romanian Ministry of Interior, and there has been a constant flow of information between the two organizations.

In line with the internal legislation and the political considerations, the Romanian Government is not applying for official international support due to the limited nature of the disaster. However, the auxiliary role of the Red Cross would be highly appreciated both by the Romanian Government and the affected population.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Romanian Red Cross will closely cooperate and coordinate in the implementation of this emergency assistance. Also close coordination will be maintained with the local authorities at both local and national level. Furthermore, Red Cross volunteers will be responsible for delivering the emergency assistance to the population affected by the floods.

The Romanian Red Cross has immediately started doing the assessment of the flooded areas with five volunteers and two staff members from Galati branch. On 16<sup>th</sup> September the General Director of RRC, with a group of five volunteers from Bucharest, organized a humanitarian convoy for affected counties. The assessment has been hampered by difficulties to access all of the affected areas due to impassable roads and landslides. However, all efforts are being made to gather the necessary information in order to initiate an appropriate response. Out of the 1,735 flooded households, the Red Cross has identified the most damaged ones and the 900 most affected families that need to be assisted immediately. Priority was given initially to the affected families with old people with poor living conditions or without family support; single headed female households including widows in poor living conditions; families with young children; families with little or no means of support or no income in poor living conditions.



Romanian Red Cross volunteers distributing emergency aid.  
 Photo: Romanian Red Cross

Many of the affected families had to be evacuated from their houses and are sheltered in nearby villages (with relatives, neighbours or friends) even though the municipality offered them temporarily shelter in some schools. The flash floods have destroyed their living infrastructure to a degree a way that is difficult for them to cope with. In response, the Romanian Red Cross has delivered 100 complete accommodation kits (bed with mattresses, and sleeping bags), 100 complete clothing sets and 100 pairs of shoes.

A detailed assessment is being conducted by the Red Cross volunteers and branch secretaries. As reported by them from the field, many villages in the affected municipalities are under water due to continuing rains. Therefore, 50 sanitary kits were delivered to the affected counties. In addition, on 17<sup>th</sup> September, a truck with supplies arrived in the affected area.

## The needs

According to the assessments from the branches, blankets, mattresses, food parcels, hygiene parcels, and bottled drinking water are pinpointed as immediate needs. After a recent coordination meeting in the field, the National Society has decided to prioritize for food parcels, hygiene parcels and sleeping bags because other humanitarian actors will be taking care of the remaining needs.

The total number of the affected households is 1,735. However, the Red Cross will be assisting the most vulnerable 900 families in line with the priorities of the selection. Based on assessment done, the RRC has started to prepare the list of most vulnerable families out of all affected families who are identified during the assessment for support.

- Families whose houses collapsed or badly damaged,
- Families that have lost their animals, household items and other means of sustenance,
- Elderly people with poor living conditions or without family support;
- Single headed female households including widows in poor living conditions;
- Families with young children;
- Families with little or no means of support or income with poor living conditions.

The Red Cross organizations are planning to assist the most affected people in the following branches: Frumușița (2), Tecuci (31), Fărțănești (150), Băneasa (10), Cudalbi (110), Slobozia Conachi (359), Pechea (432), Cuca (58), Corni (159), Oancea (10), Folțești (89), Tg. Bujor (35), Costache Negri (12), Suhurlui (2), Matca (5), Jorăști (12), Smulți (7), Corod (16), Rediu (59), Cuza Vodă (300)

**The table below lists the needs of the 900 most vulnerable affected families:**

Item	No. of units to be distributed for the 900 families
Sleeping bags	3,600
Hygiene kits (standard family hygiene parcel) <i>100 parcels for replenishment of the central RRC storehouse.</i>	1,000
Food (family food parcel containing wheat, flour, rice, sugar, vegetable oil, white beans and relish) <i>100 parcels for replenishment of the central RRC storehouse.</i>	1,000

Even though the families will be returning into their homes once the water will recede, they will have many of their belongings like mattresses, food and non food destroyed or washed away. The planned assistance will only be providing them with basic items needed to get through the coming weeks.

## The proposed operation

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

**Outcome:** The needs of the most vulnerable 900 families (or 3,600 beneficiaries) will be met through distribution of essential relief items.

**Outputs (expected results)**

The provision of Hygiene parcels, Food parcels, Sleeping bag will help the affected families to cope with the consequences of the flash floods.

**Activities planned:**

- Conduct needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Conduct Lessons Learned workshop
- Conduct Beneficiary satisfaction survey to find out whether the operation satisfied the needs of the affected people.

Content of family food parcel	Units	Quantity
White flour	kg	2
Cooking oil	litre	2
Sugar	kg	2
Pasta	kg	2
Rice	kg	2
Canned meat	kg	2
Bread	kg	1
Corn flour	kg	2
Salt	kg	1
Bag with Red Cross Emblem	piece	1

Content of family hygiene parcel	Units	Quantity
Washing powder	kg	3
Sanitary napkins	package	1
Soap	pcs	4
Shampoo	litre	1
Toothpaste	pcs	2
Toothbrush	pcs	4
Toilet paper	piece	4
Dishwashing detergent	litre	1
Razor	piece	4
Shaving foam	piece	1
Box with Red Cross Emblem	piece	1

Each family will receive the following items:

- Sleeping bag                      4 pieces
- Hygiene parcels                    1 parcel
- Food parcels                        1 parcel

RRC staff together with RRC Volunteers will prepare the final beneficiary list and will organize storage and distribution of relief goods in respective branches. RRC DM Coordinator will lead the DREF operation for the affected families with close support and coordination. All the procurements of the above relief items will be done following the International Federation standard procurement procedures.

Visibility of the Red Cross volunteers will be ensured during the operation through the local media.

At the end of operation, one workshop will be organized for the RRC head quarter disaster response department with the volunteers involved for lessons learned and experience shared during the operation. Also a beneficiary satisfaction survey will be conducted in order to hear the beneficiaries' voice regarding their opinion about this assistance received.

The monitoring will be undertaken by Disaster preparedness and logistics in conjunction with branch secretaries. Weekly field visits will be undertaken to verify the receipt of items by families listed as

beneficiaries. Should additional need be identified during visits, this will be recorded and reported to the Romanian Red Cross headquarter. Written reports will be produced by the Romanian Red Cross staff with information collected during these field visits.

The IFRC Europe Zone Office 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.

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## Contact information

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

- **Romanian Red Cross:** Daniel Modoaca, Head of DM Department,  
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**Click here**

1. Click [here](#) to see the DREF budget
2. Click [here](#) to see the map of the affected area
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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**

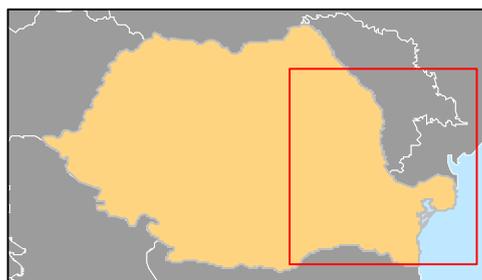
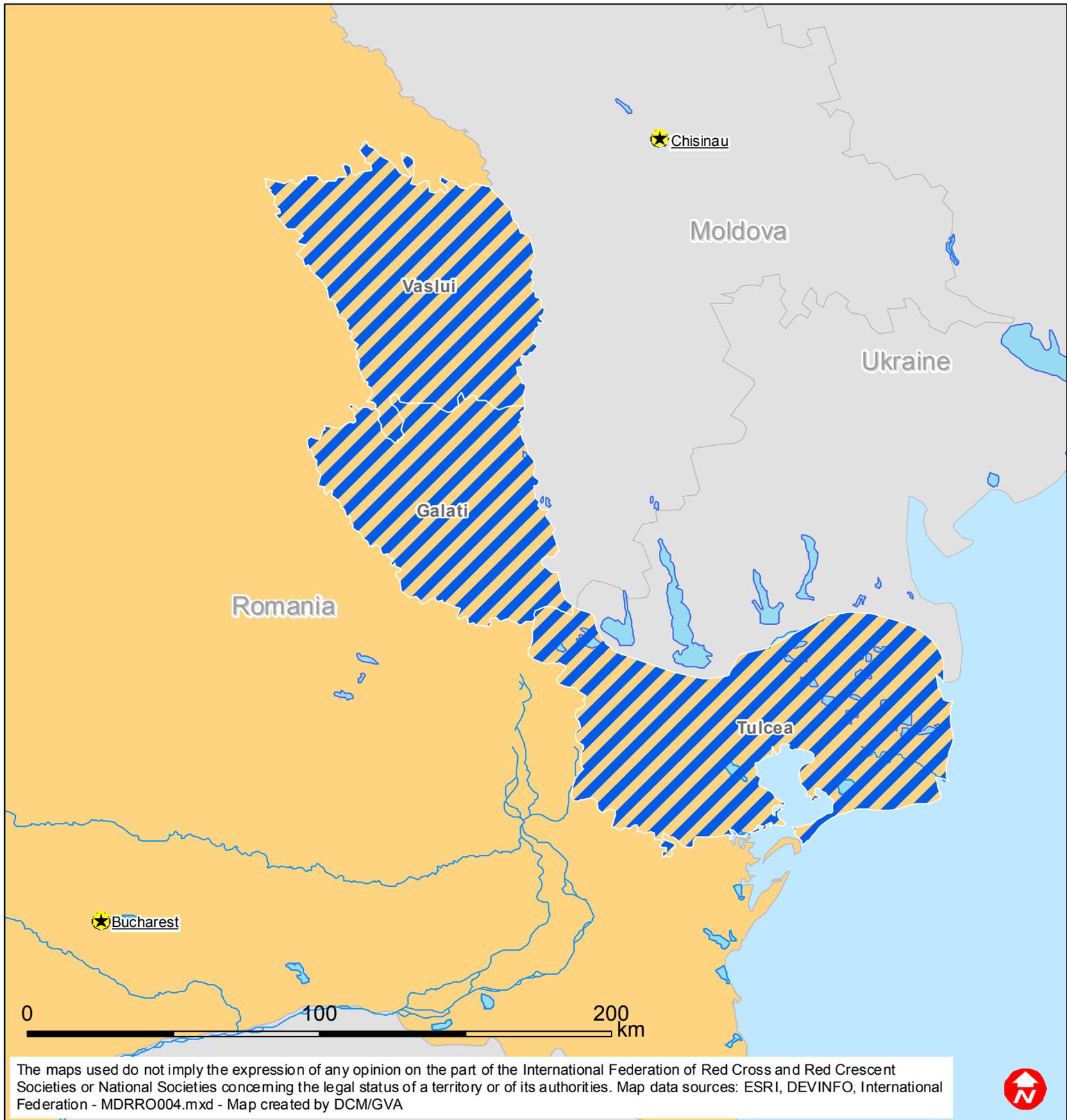
16-09-13

APPEAL APPEAL NAME

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>	
500	Shelter - Relief	
501	Shelter - Transitional	
502	Construction - Housing	
503	Construction - Facilities	
505	Construction - Materials	
510	Clothing & Textiles	97,200
520	Food	25,000
523	Seeds & Plants	
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	35,000
540	Medical & First Aid	
550	Teaching Materials	
560	Ustensils & Tools	
570	Other Supplies & Services	
571	Emergency Response Units	
578	Cash Disbursements	
	<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>157,200</b>
580	Land & Buildings	
581	Vehicles Purchase	
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	
584	Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
587	Medical Equipment	
589	Other Machiney & Equipment	
	<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
590	Storage, Warehousing	
592	Dsitribution & Monitoring	5,000
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	
594	Logistics Services	
	<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>5,000</b>
600	International Staff	2,000
661	National Staff	0
662	National Society Staff	2,500
667	Volunteers	1,900
	<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>6,400</b>
670	Consultants	
750	Professional Fees	
	<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
680	Workshops & Training	1,500
	<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>1,500</b>
700	Travel	
710	Information & Public Relations	500
730	Office Costs	1,000
740	Communications	1,000
760	Financial Charges	800
790	Other General Expenses	1,000
790	Shared Support Services	
	<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>4,300</b>
599	Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	11,336
	<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>11,336</b>
	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>185,736</b>



# Romania: Flash floods



 Flooded counties