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Final Report

North Macedonia: Wildfires

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation final report	Operation n° MDRMK009
Date of issue: 2 April 2022	Glide number: WF-2021-000109-MKD
Operation start date: 20 August 2021	Operation end date: 31 December 2021
Host National Society: Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia	Operation budget: CHF 494,365
Number of people affected: 80,000	Number of people assisted: 12,612 (4,204 families)
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: HQ and 14 RC branches supported by 300 volunteers and staff were implementing the operation	
Other partner organizations involved in the operation: Fire Brigade, Crisis Management Center, Directorate for Protection and Rescue, the Army, Police, Ministry of Health	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Starting from 30 July 2021, the Republic of North Macedonia was struck by a heat wave that resulted in severe fires in several regions in the country. The first wave of fires was raging almost until 25 August. The wildfires were not under control despite the enormous efforts of the state institutions responsible for crisis management as well as the local population. The severe fires in numerous regions resulted in devastation of forests, fertile land, crops and property of the population. One casualty and several injured persons (inhaling smoke) have been reported. Numerous houses as well as other facilities have burnt down and were damaged in many villages.

On 4 August 2021, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia declared a state of crisis on the whole territory of the country for a period of 30 days and it ended at the beginning of September 2021.



Photo 1 & 2: Forest fires near the city of Kochani. Source: Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia

The most affected regions were as follows: Strumica, Kochani, Kumanovo, Gevgelija, Valandovo, Bitola and Prilep, Shtip, Berovo, Pehchevo, Delchevo Skopje, Radovish, Ohrid, Debar, Probistip, Kriva Palanka and Veles.

The overall coordination of the emergency situation due to the heatwave and fires in the country was done by the Crisis Management Centre. The response operation was supported by the national and local teams of the Fire Brigade, Crisis Management Center, Directorate for Protection and Rescue, the Army, and the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Health and other responsible institutions and the local population.

Firefighters and local population were fighting the fires around the clock in various regions of the country. However, due to limited specialized firefighting equipment, wildfires continued to spread throughout the country.

EU Civil Protection was activated and through the mechanism and through the bilateral agreements, teams and international assistance arrived from Serbia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Austria, Romania and Montenegro, and assisted the firefighting operation with aircrafts, equipment, vehicles, and human resources.

After the DREF operation started there were ongoing fires at several locations such as mountain Jablanica, Tetovo, Veles, Ohrid, Debar etc. but were controlled and extinguished.



Photo 3: Fire in the National Park Galichica, Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia



Map 1: Map of the affected areas and Red Cross mobile teams, Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

For implementation of the DREF Operation over 300 volunteers and staff were involved in the activities.

The overall Red Cross operation was coordinated by the RCRNM Operational Centre which is responsible for coordination of the activities of the National Society with the state authorities and the Red Cross branches. The Head of the RCRNM Operational Centre participated in coordination meetings of the Centre for Crisis Management in order to coordinate the work of the National Society with the state agencies working in the field on national and local level.

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia provided immediate support to the state emergency response teams since the onset of fires. RCRNM teams were providing support in putting out fires, particularly providing assistance to the firefighting teams and the local population through food and drinking water provision. The RCRNM volunteers also helped extinguish fires. In the disaster-affected regions, the branches of the RCRNM mobilized the emergency response teams, accompanied by the RCRNM staff from the HQ providing logistics support and distributing water, food and hygiene parcels, sandwiches, blankets, mattresses, bedding, kitchen sets and other necessary items. The RCRNM teams also provided first aid support to the firefighting teams, PSS and monitoring activities with drone.



Photo 4: Flyer for call for donations, Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia

Photo 5: Distribution of humanitarian aid Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia

Photo 6 and 7: Water assistance to firefighters, Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia

List of branches and number of staff and volunteers active in the field since 2 August, supporting firefighters, Conducting assessment and distribution:

RC Branch / unit	Number of volunteers/staff active	RC Vehicles
National Emergency Response Team	12	6
Kochani	10	1
Kumanovo	16	3
Kriva Palanka	9	1
Delchevo	28	3
Veles	8	1
City of Skopje	14	4
Shtip	9	1
Berovo	7	4
Bitola	5	2
Valandovo	6	1
Probishtip	2	1
Sveti Nikole	2	1
Kichevo	2	1
Strumica	2	1
Gevgelija	2	1
Prilep	4	1
Radovish	4	1
Total of 13 RC branches and National ERU	Total of 142 volunteers and staff	34 RC vehicles

Overview of distributed assistance of the Red Cross of RNM to firefighting teams in the affected regions:

TABLE 1. OVERVIEW OF INITIAL RESPONSE OF THE RCRNM IN THE AFFECTED REGIONS BY THE WILDFIRES								
Initial Disaster assessment			Phase 1 Distribution RCRNM stocks distributed for replenishment					
Affected Regions	Affected villages	No. of families targeted (Phase 1 + 2)	Food parcels	Hygiene parcels	Blankets	Mattresses	Kitchen sets	Bedding
Berovo	Pehcevo, Umlena Macevo, Budinarci Vladimirovo, Robovo	824	520	520	50	52	20	52
Bitola	Staravina, Skocivir Iveni	26	27	27	0	15	0	15
Veles	Vladilovci, Krajnici	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delcevo	Nov Istevnik Star Istevnik, Razlovci Treboviste	655	62	62	400	25	0	25
Kriva Palanka	Otosnica, Radibus Drenak, German Kiselica, Dolno Varoviste, Tlimici Konopnica	827	250	250	120	50	5	50
Kocani	Kocani (Velsko maalo, Drachevik I Bejrut) Kostin Dol, Beli	568	100	100	400	165	3	165
Valandovo	Marvinci, Brajkovci Kazandol, Balinci	175	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kumanovo	Celopek, Murgash Zubovce, Nukljane Jacince, Klecovce Stepance, Zeluvino Malotino, Kokino Dovezence, Cetirce	296	140	140	420	69	10	69
Prilep	Nikodin Toplica Rakle	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probishtip	Tatomir, Zivalevo Konjuh	66	5	5	0	2	0	2
Radovis	Damjan, Pogulevo	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kicevo	Gresnica, Devic, Slatina	77	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shtip	Bogoslovec, Dobrshani Dragoevo, Shtip Krivi dol	25	25	25	0	11	3	11
Skopje	Pobozje, Raovic Bukovic, Kopanica, Divlje Krushje, Grad manci Agino selo (rafinerija) Chajlane, Semeniste Sonje	601	75	75	0	115	9	115
Total		4,204	1,204	1,204	1,390	504	50	504

From the start of the DREF operation (according to the plan of the DREF Operation) until the end of the DREF operation on 31 December 2021, conducted the following activities as planned:

1. Distribution of blankets, mattresses, bedding and kitchen sets to the affected population, **3,148 people** were assisted or **72%** of the target group
2. Distribution of food parcels to **12,423 people** or **99%** of the target group
3. Distribution of **3,149 sandwiches** for firefighters and NERU of Red Cross of North Macedonia

4. Distribution of public awareness raising materials, from the beginning of the operation until end, **105,850 people** were assisted or **92%** of the target
5. Distribution of **100** first aid kits
6. In total **326** people were assisted with first aid
7. **293** people were tested for COVID-19 or 97% of the planned test were used
8. PFA to RC personnel and people in the field from the beginning of the operation until the end was provided for **488** people
9. Distribution process of hygiene parcels was conducted, from the beginning of the operation until the end – **12,438 people** were assisted, or **99%** of the targeted population
10. In total **3,006 firefighters** received water bottles
11. Distribution of **200** baby hygiene parcels



Photos 8 – 12: Distribution of humanitarian aid and assistance to firefighters on the field, Water assistance to firefighters, Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia

After the end of the operations activities and in the phase of strengthening the capacities of the National Society, the following activities were conducted:

1. Uniforms and have been procured and distributed to red cross team members: total 159 sets
2. Training for 30 volunteers on firefighting was conducted
3. 2 Lessons learned workshop was conducted for involved Red Cross Branch organization and one for Red Cross National staff and board members, total: 70 participants
4. Community feedback systems was prepared
5. Principles and Rules were reflected in the contingency plans of the National Society
6. Public and volunteers are informed about the DREF operations, manuals translated on Macedonian and English

Подгответе се за шумските пожари пред да нападнат, следејќи ги следниве насоки:

1	30м Создадете одвојен појас. Покријте се 30 метри одвојен простор околу вашиот дом. Не учете како да ги користите соседните дворни зони околу вашиот дом.	до 1 км Заштитете го вашиот дом, летечките жариња можат да ги укалат домиците до 1 километар од областа соопштена со оген. Почнете рано да ги заштитите домот од закана од шумските пожари.		
2	Подгответе го вашиот дом и семејството ако и нитукојда не евакуира.	Направете оквирни планови за шумски пожари.	Подгответе чекор за прва помош.	Создадете семеен план за комуникација.
3	Пред евакуациски чекори подгответе го вистинскиот и нитукојда не дава од вашиот дом за евакуација.	Прогледните ја подгответе ја евакуациската план.	ОДИ! Евакуациски чекори кога е вистински евакуација, подготвен се за оген.	
4	Осигурајте се дека чиниите за итни случаи се во вашето вистина.	Заштитете се од топлината и летечките жариња. Може да работи затворена, затвора се додека пожар, топлина, окупира чиниите како, суви материјали за да се приклучат луѓето и заштитите оген. Препорачливо е областа до е од 100% пожар.	Ложиште/те ги вашиот мисловите и земете ги во вас.	



Photos 13 – 15: Training for volunteer firefighters teams, Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) was in constant contact with the RCRNM and prepared to support the National Society efforts in terms of replenishment of the stock reserves and provision of required immediate assistance to the affected population from the fires. No other RCRC National Societies was involved in the operation.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The overall coordination of the emergency situation due to the heatwave and fires in the country was coordinated by the Crisis Management Centre. The response operation was supported by the national and local teams of the Fire Brigade, Crisis Management Center, Directorate for Protection and Rescue, the Army, and the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Health and other responsible institutions and the local population.

Firefighters and local population were fighting the fires around the clock in various regions of the country. However, due to limited specialized firefighting equipment, wildfires continued to spread throughout the country.

The state has three firefighting aircrafts, but they are not in operational (service required) and the only air support for firefighting was provided by two army helicopters. EU Civil Protection was activated.

The State Assessment Team (comprised of the Deputy Managers of Crisis Management Centre, Directorate for Protection and Rescue, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, the Director for Military Intelligence and the Adviser of the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Macedonia) in a session held on 4 August, proposed the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia to declare a state of crisis on the whole territory of the country for a period of 30 days, which was declared by the Government the same day.



Photos 16 – 19: International assistance from the EUCP Mechanism, Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia

As of 4 August, the country also received international assistance from Serbia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Austria and Romania and Montenegro, which were assisting with the firefighting operation with aircraft, equipment, vehicles, and human resources.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

The National Society conducted detailed assessment in the field. The emerging needs were provision of humanitarian assistance for the affected population comprised of food and hygiene parcels, water, blankets, bedding and mattresses, and disinfectants. Immediate health needs were covered by the Ministry of Health of RNM.

The Assessment indicated that out of the 80,000 people living in the affected areas, the fire affected a total of 4,204 families. The fires are expected to have a long-lasting impact on the overall population in the fire-affected regions due to the devastated environment, crops and the livelihood of the people. The drinking water sources were not affected and they were monitored by the state responsible institutions.

The rapid assessment and sectoral in-depth assessment were conducted in a joint and coordinated way with the local emergency management authorities, and in coordination with fire containment operations.

The main issues were related to the loss or severely damaged livelihoods. The economics in the area mainly depend on agriculture and farming. The wildfires burnt over 10,000 ha of forests and crops. Many agricultural businesses and private properties have been damaged by the fires. Many people lost their means of income with the field of crops burnt, farms and cattle burnt or smoked.

Risk Analysis

1. The high temperatures were expected to continue with possible additional fire outbreaks in the country which may require expansion of the operation in other parts of the country and protection of the already affected areas.
Mitigation measures: The Operational centre of the Red Cross HQ, prepared a plan for mobilizing all volunteers and staff in all Red Cross Branches, contingency plan was in place and all involved were acting according to it.
2. Potential negative evolution of the COVID-19 situation, with consequential need to increase distances and ensure isolation of the affected people is likely, considering the trend in the region. This element can both affect the operation, but more widely the whole regional capacities, requiring a quick re-routing of RCRNM assets and potential deployment of additional resources.

Mitigation measures: Volunteers and staff were conducting the operation under strict COVID-19 protocols, all possible infected were tested and isolated, the operation didn't had problems

- Potential impact of floods and hydro-geological events in case of heavy rains in the areas around the fire affected regions as a result of forests that provided natural protection for the settlements below the mountains.

Mitigation measures: Contingency plans were in place for if such event happened.

- Elections in the country

Mitigation measures: Due to the election process in the country, the distribution was stopped for 1 month, not the increase the risk of potentially harming the image of Red Cross

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The overall objective of this operation was to contribute to the provision of humanitarian assistance to a total of 4,204 families affected by the wildfires, (average of 3 members per family). This included the replenishment of relief items distributed in the first phase of the operation for 1,204 affected families and the second part of the operation targets additional 3,000 families with relief support).

The operation also aimed to continue to provide basic support for some 3,000 firefighters and community volunteers on the ground as well as operational support for the RCRNM volunteers and staff operating on the ground.

Total Distribution list for DREF wildfires, Republic of North Macedonia																							
Branc organization of Red Cross					BEROVO	DELCEVO	KOCHANI	SHTIP	KUMANOVO	KRIVA PALANKA	SKOPJE	BITOLA	VELES	VALANDOVO	PRILEP	PROBISHTIP	RADOVISH	KICHEVO	OHRID	DEBAR	NERU	TOTAL	
Number of affected families per BORG					824	655	568	25	296	827	601	26	25	175	15	66	24	77	New wildfires		4204		
Description	quantity	Total procurmant	Distribution from Red Cross of North Macedonia	Distribution for first and second phase	Distribution firs and second phase per BORG and Nacional ERU																		
1	Blankets	piece	4390	1390	3000	400	300	200	100	100	355	700	60	125	100	60	100	100	100	100	100	4390	
2	Matressess	piece	1034	504	530	130	50	0	0	50	50	100	10	20	20	10	10	20	20	0	40	1034	
3	Bedding sets	piece	1654	504	1150	300	150	0	0	100	100	200	20	40	40	20	20	40	40	0	80	1654	
4	Kitchen set	piece	150	50	100	6	20	10	2	5	5	30	5	5	2	0	5	5	0	0	0	150	
5	Food parcels	parcels	4204	1204	2956	304	593	468	33	156	500	525	0	25	125	15	61	24	47	0	80	4160	
6	Leaflets for awareness raising	piece	132000	0	105850	6550	8000	8000	3000	3000	3590	38900	7520	5400	7520	1800	500	1580	1210	6580	2700	105850	
7	First aid kits for volunteers to respond to emergency needs of the fire-fighters as a result of fires	sets	100	0	100	4	4	4	3	4	3	20	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	40	100	
8	Hygiene parcels (including mask and hand sanitizer)	parcels	4204	1204	2956	304	593	468	33	156	500	525	0	25	125	15	61	24	47	0	80	4160	
9	Baby hygiene parcels	parcels	200	0	200	30	20	20	0	40	10	60	0	0	0	0	4	6	0	0	10	200	
10	Water 0,5l	piece	112305	40034	69160	7580	8780	3890	1260	5870	2520	10110	4850	1260	630	2200	630	630	630	5870	4890	7560	109194
11	Protective masks	piece	10000	0	10000	200	200	200	100	400	300	3000	200	200	100	0	100	0	0	300	300	4400	10000
12	Hand sanitisers	piece	1500	0	1500	30	30	20	20	40	20	200	20	20	20	0	20	0	0	30	30	1000	1500
13	sandwiches	piece	3500	2000	1149	52	26	0	0	56	0	92	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	125	131	614	3149

Implemented strategy

The implementation strategy was prepared and separated in 6 phases according to the nature of the operation:

1. Phase 1 – Assessment

Rapid and detailed assessment focusing on damage analysis and targeting of the assisted people was conducted in coordination and joint effort with local self-government and other involved institutions

2. Phase 2 – Procurement and in-kind distribution

Procurement process according to all procedures was conducted for replenishment and distribution of items and distribution of material assistance for addressing immediate needs of affected families from the fires (hygiene and food parcels and bedding, and other planned items) was conducted with delay due to the election process in October 2021)

3. Phase 3 – Support for firefighting teams

Recruitment of volunteers for participating in emergency response operation has been conducted, procurement of uniforms, and other operational needs for functioning of the RC ERU teams to provide support to firefighting teams has been conducted, procurement and distribution of water and sandwiches for firefighting field operation has been conducted

4. Phase 4 – Capacity building

Translation and printing of the DREF Guidelines 2020 has been conducted, Training for firefighting for RC volunteers to provide support on local level has been conducted, and lessons learned workshop has been conducted.

5. Phase 5 – Monitoring and Evaluation of the effects

Continuous assessment operation and M&E action to evaluate the effects of the operation was in place, feedback mechanism was active

6. Phase 6 – Exit strategy

Operational support services

Logistics and supply chain

Logistics supported the procurement of goods, packing of goods, transport and in-kind distribution. The procurement of the required products for making the parcels within this operation was done in compliance with the procedure for procurements of the RCRNM and the IFRC procurement guidelines. The stocks were placed in the RCRNM central warehouse in Skopje. The distribution process was organized with Red Cross vehicles and was done through the Red Cross branches of RNM.

Communications

Information on the operation was disseminated by the RCRNM through web and social media, and in coordination with the state authorities in order to highlight the response to the humanitarian needs and the evolving and emerging humanitarian concerns. Information was shared via the IFRC GO Platform.

Security

The volunteers and staff of the RCRNM were properly trained, equipped and insured. Health and safety procedures were in place and specific COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been followed (and regularly updated according to the Ministry of Health guidance), to reduce probability of contagion during response operations.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

The RCRNM was monitoring the intervention to ensure a detailed feedback on activities identified, according to the indicator defined. Monitoring and evaluation was part of the process to ensure efficient implementation of the EPoA. Lesson learned exercise was conducted at the end of the operation to gather operational learning and improve future response efforts. Reports were produced in accordance with the provided guidelines by the assigned project coordinator.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Health

People reached: 814

Male: 653

Female: 161

Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment

Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of first aid kits distributed	100	100
# of people that received first aid assistance	300	326

Outcome 4: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced

Output 4.1: Community-based disease control and health promotion is provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of RC personnel tested for COVID-19	300	325

Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened

Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people that received PSS on the RC SOS telephone lines	500	488

Narrative description of achievements

The target population is 500 people that experienced psychosocial consequences from the disaster and 300 injured people from the fires that required first aid assistance, as detected in the initial assessment.

The emergency also had negative impact on the psychosocial wellbeing of the people and might deteriorate the health of the affected population in future, particularly in terms of COVID-19. First aid activities were required for firefighters and the local population fighting the fires. Transfer to medical institutions and health care services continued to be provided by the health service providers.

Achievements:

- Procurement process has finished for 100 First Aid kits for RC volunteers to respond to emergency needs of the firefighters and affected population as a result of fires, 100 first aid kits were distributed
- Procurement process has finished for 300 COVID-19 rapid tests for RC personnel and volunteers, 325 people were tested
- 5 SOS Lines were opened for providing PSS
- PFA to RC personnel and people in the field from the beginning of the operation until the end was provided for 488 people
- There were 326 first aid interventions on the field

Challenges

- Lack of trained staff and volunteers and not enough human resources in some of the local branches for conducting the operation
- Lack of materials and stock in some of the local branches
- Not enough protective equipment

Lessons Learned

- Adequate future training of staff and volunteers for response in case of forest fires including PSS
- Prepositioning stocks and equipment for response to forest fires in key branches



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 12,438

Male: 6,465

Female: 5,973

Outcome 1. Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of affected families covered by hygiene kit distributions	TBC	99%
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		
# of people that received hygiene parcels	12,612	12,438
# of firefighters that received water	3,000	3,006

Narrative description of achievements

The Assessment indicated that the fire affected total of 4,204 families in 14 fire destructed regions, with consequential losses on personal property. The distribution of essential hygiene items allowed certain material assistance for the most affected families in order to cover their immediate hygiene needs and good health. Total of 1,204 family hygiene parcels were distributed in the first phase of the operation to 3,612 people. The Red Cross distributed 40,000 bottles (0.5l) of water to firefighting teams and local population. Protective equipment and uniforms were provided to RC volunteers in order to successfully implement the operation in the field.

Population to be assisted: The targeted 9,000 people (3,000 families) in the second phase of the operation received emergency hygiene parcels as an assistance to overcome this challenging period. Additional 40,000 bottles (0.5l) of water were foreseen to be provided to firefighting teams and local population in case of expansion of fires.

Achievements:

- Assessment of hygiene needs and identification of target groups has been conducted in coordination with relevant local, regional and national stakeholders
- Procurement procedure for 4,204 hygiene parcels for the affected population for replenishment and distribution has been finished
- Distribution process of hygiene parcels was conducted from the beginning of the operation until the end – 12,438 people were assisted, or 99% of the targeted population
- Procurement of 80,034 (0.5 l) bottles has been finished (for replenishment and distribution)
- Distribution process of 40,000 bottles (0.5 l) of water was conducted – 3,006 people were covered with water distribution
- Procurement process for baby hygiene parcels has finished, distribution was conducted

Challenges

- Lack of trained staff and volunteers and not enough human resources in some of the local branches for conducting the operation
- Lack of materials and stock in some of the local branches
- Not enough protective equipment
- Delay of distribution due to political elections in the country

Lessons Learned

- Adequate future training of staff and volunteers for response in case of forest fires and distribution of humanitarian aid
- Prepositioning stocks and equipment for response to forest fires in key branches
- Forming of disaster response team for forest fires with proper equipment



Shelter

People reached: 3,148

Male: 1,571

Female: 1,577

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
% of people who received household items report that their basic needs were met	80%	72%
Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.		
# of people that received household items	4,390	3,148

Narrative description of achievements

The Assessment indicated that the fire affected total of 4,390 persons in terms of shelter needs in the fire-destroyed regions. In the initial phase, total of 1,390 persons were supported with household items (blankets, mattresses, bedding and kitchen sets). The effects of the fires are expected to be felt by the overall population in the fire-affected regions due to the devastated environment, crops and the livelihood of the people.

The strategy adopted is to distribute material assistance to most vulnerable people in the second phase comprised of 3,000 blankets, 500 mattresses, 1,000 bedding and 100 kitchen sets for approximately 3,000 people in the affected regions, among which firefighters. The assistance is planned to be distributed by Red Cross vehicles and volunteers as an immediate support.

Achievements:

- Assessment of shelter needs and identification of target groups has been conducted in coordination with relevant local, regional and national stakeholders
- Procurement procedure for blankets, mattresses, bedding and kitchen sets for the affected population for replenishment and distribution for 4,390 people has been finished
- Distribution process of the blankets, mattresses, bedding and kitchen sets to the affected population has been completed, from the beginning of the operation until end, 3,148 people were assisted or 72% of the target group

Challenges

- Lack of trained staff and volunteers and not enough human resources in some of the local branches for conducting the operation
- Lack of materials and stock in some of the local branches
- Not enough protective equipment
- Delay of distribution due to political elections in the country

Lessons Learned

- Adequate future training of staff and volunteers for response in case of forest fires and distribution of humanitarian aid
- Pre-position of stocks and equipment for response to forest fires in key branches
- Establishment of disaster response team for forest fires with proper equipment



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 12,423

Male: 6,790

Female: 5,633

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
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% of people who report that the food aid received was sufficient to cover their immediate basic needs	80%	99%
Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities		
# of people that received food parcels	12,612	12,423
# of firefighters that received sandwiches	1,500	896
Output 1.4: Community awareness activities on livelihoods strengthening and protection are carried out with target communities and public actors		
# of people that were reached with awareness-raising activities	50,000	45,750
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>The Assessment indicated that the fire affected total of 12,612 people (4,204 families) in 14 fire-destroyed regions, with consequential losses on their personal property. The wildfire also destroyed field, grass and crops, forests, leaving many people without means of earning or with no possibility to feed their cattle. This situation, linked with the destruction of the environment and personal property, such as farms and land as a result of the wildfire, caused direct (destruction) and indirect (economic damages due to losses of property, cattle or crops) consequences. The disaster severely affected the livelihoods and income generating capabilities of the people in the fire-affected regions. The distribution of essential food items will provide basic material assistance for the most affected families. In total, 3,612 people (1,204 family) have been reached with food parcels in the first phase of the operation.</p> <p><i>In total, 12,423 people were reached with distribution of food parcels and 45,750 people were reached through raising awareness campaigns.</i></p>		
Achievements:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement procedure for 4,204 food parcels for replenishment and distribution has been finished • Distribution process was finished, 12,423 people or 99% of the target group • Distribution of public awareness raising materials was finished, 45,750 people were assisted or 92% of the target • Distribution of 896 sandwiches for firefighters/second phase - completed 		
Challenges		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of trained staff and volunteers and not enough human resources in some of the local branches for conducting the operation • Lack of materials and stock in some of the local branches • Not enough protective equipment • Delay in distribution due to political elections in the country 		
Lessons Learned		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate future training of staff and volunteers for response in case of forest fires and distribution of humanitarian aid • Pre-position of stocks and equipment for response to forest fires in key branches • establishment of disaster response team for forest fires with proper equipment 		

Strengthen National Society		
Outcome S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers involved in the operation	300	325
Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
# of volunteers insured in the operation	300	325
# of volunteers trained	30	30
# of RC representatives participating in the lessons learned workshop	20	20
Narrative description of achievements		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for insurance for 300 volunteers was completed – 325 volunteers have been insured. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for procurement of uniforms and backpacks was completed • PSS was provided for 44 persons (RC and other people) • Training for 30 volunteers on firefighting has been conducted • Lessons learned was conducted for 20 participants
Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay of trainings due to COVID-19 situation in the country
Lessons Learned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate future training of staff and volunteers for response in case of forest fires and distribution of humanitarian aid • Forming of disaster response team for forest fires with proper equipment

International Disaster Response		
Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of functional feedback mechanisms in place	TBC	45
Output S2.1.4: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards		
During the lessons learned exercise, conclusions and recommendations are derived for improvement of future operations discussed	YES	YES
Narrative description of achievements		
Needs Assessments:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the Principles and Rules, Emergency Response Framework and Emergency Appeal and DREF procedures are well understood and applied • Principles and Rules are reflected in the contingency plans of the National Society • Community communication activities ensure people are kept informed of operational plans and progress and have they information they need about the response • Community feedback systems (including rumour and/or perception tracking) are established, and feedback received from the RC branches and acted upon and used to improve the operation • Warehouse insurance, servicing of field vehicles used in the operation, goods reception, insurance of vehicles, fleet maintenance, and fire distinguishers 		
Achievements:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process for procurement and payment of warehouse insurance, servicing of field vehicles used in the operation, goods reception, insurance of vehicles, fleet maintenance, and fire distinguishers has finished • Preparation process for Community feedback systems has been completed • Principles and Rules were reflected in the contingency plans of the National Society • Public and volunteers are informed about the DREF operations, manuals translated on Macedonian and English 		
Challenges		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No challenges 		
Lessons Learned		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including feedback mechanism in other disaster response operations. 		

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC		
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 financial reports submitted on time	2	2
Narrative description of achievements		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous work was conducted, DREF Coordinator, Finance Assistant and Reporting Officer were appointed. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs were covered for HQ and RC Branches Kochani, Kumanovo, Valandovo, Bitola, Prilep, Shtip, Berovo, Delchevo, Skopje, Radovish, Kichevo, Veles, Ohrid, Kriva Palanka, Debar and Probishtip
Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No challenges
Lessons Learned
-

D. Financial Report

The total budget for the DREF operation was **494,365 CHF**. After finalizing the operation, there remains a balance of **CHF 7,455** which will be returned to the DREF account. *Please refer to the Final Financial Report for details.*

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

DG ECHO and the Government of Canada has replenished the DREF in the occasion of this operation.

Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

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- Andrej Naricyn**, Head of Partnerships and Resource Development, andrej.naricyn@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 (NGOs) 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.

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/08-2022/02	Operation	MDRMK009
Budget Timeframe	2021/08-2021/12	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 16/Mar/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRMK009 - North Macedonia - Wildfires

Operating Timeframe: 20 Aug 2021 to 31 Dec 2021

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	494,365
DREF Allocations	494,365
Expenditure	-486,910
Closing Balance	7,455

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter	110,553	486,910	-376,357
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	164,661		164,661
AOF4 - Health	9,905		9,905
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	111,492		111,492
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	396,611	486,910	-90,299
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	90,299		90,299
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	2,130		2,130
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	5,325		5,325
Strategy for implementation Total	97,754		97,754
Grand Total	494,365	486,910	7,455

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/08-2022/02	Operation	MDRMK009
Budget Timeframe	2021/08-2021/12	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 16/Mar/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRMK009 - North Macedonia - Wildfires

Operating Timeframe: 20 Aug 2021 to 31 Dec 2021

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
General Expenditure	7,000		7,000
Travel	2,000		2,000
Financial Charges	5,000		5,000
Contributions & Transfers	457,193	457,192	0
Cash Transfers National Societies	457,193	457,192	0
Indirect Costs	30,173	29,718	455
Programme & Services Support Recover	30,173	29,718	455
Grand Total	494,365	486,910	7,455