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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Bosnia and Herzegovina: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation n° MDRBA009 Glide n° FF-2014-000059-BIH
Date of issue: 19 May 2014	Date of disaster: 13 May 2014
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Michele Rezza Sanchez, IFRC Country Representative	Point of contact : Davoring Pezer, RCSBiH Programme Coordinator
Operation start date: 18 May 2014	Expected timeframe: 3 months
Overall operation budget: CHF 334,013	
Number of people affected: 100,986 people or 25,246 families	Number of people to be assisted: 8,000 people or 2,000 families
Host National Society: Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (153 local branches, 328 employees, 15,948 volunteers)	
Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, ICRC, Swiss Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, Montenegro Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: BiH Civil Protection	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Since 13 May 2014, heavy rains in Bosnia and Herzegovina have caused large-scale flooding with subsequent landslides in the following days. As a result, a state of emergency was declared in a number of municipalities. The affected municipalities include Maglaj, Doboj, Bijeljina, Zvornik, Brcko, Modrica, Bosanski Samac, Tuzla, Vares, Doboj Jug, Sekovici, Bratunac, Srebrenica, Kotor Varos, Petrovo, Sapna, Gračanica, Gradačac, Kakanj, Olovo, Sanski Most Breza, Visoko, Zenica, Kladanj, Banovici, Lukavac and Sarajevo Canton. According to the national authorities, several cities and villages are experiencing disruption of water supply, power cuts and damaged infrastructure. As of 17 May, the water has been slowly receding, but the situation remains still complex due to numerous landslides causing house collapsing and road damages. State and local authorities are engaged in ongoing evacuation efforts. Officials say twelve people lost their lives and more bodies could emerge as water recedes from the dozens of cities flooded. More than 6,000 people were evacuated, with numbers still likely to rise as evacuation is still going on. It is estimated that over 100,000 people may be affected by floods and landslides.



RC volunteers distributing relief items to affected area-Ilidza
Photo: RCSBiH

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH) has been actively engaged in rescue and operation activities, providing relief and helping setting up centres and temporary accommodations for those evacuated. Further

to this, the National Society has mobilized its multipurpose teams in the affected areas, staff and volunteers in assisting authorities with evacuations as well as providing blankets, mattresses, drinking water, food and hygiene kits, rubber boots and water disinfectants to the affected people. In Brcko District, one of the worst affected areas, Red Cross volunteers have also assisted by putting sand banks along the River Sava trying to prevent it from flooding dozens of villages which are still in danger as the water level continues to rise. Unfortunately, the relief efforts are being hampered by the destroyed infrastructure, broken telecommunication, blackouts and difficult conditions in the field.

During the previous years, the Red Cross Society BiH has successfully implemented several DREF operations including relief for floods and extreme winter conditions. The Red Cross has a defined role at national level in disaster management, agreed and formalized with the Ministry of Security and Rescue and country legislation making RCSBiH unique in the country. As an auxiliary organ to the BiH Government, the Red Cross Society BiH is also constantly working on the improvement of its capacities to conduct proper preparedness and respond activities when a natural disaster strikes. The National Society has a well developed structure including multipurpose units / teams at each level of the structure. The National Society also planned to develop a contingency plan in the highest risk flooding areas, but due to the lack of financial resources this is not finished, and the National Society has only limited stocks available to respond to the current flooding

Overview of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC has one office in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the presence of four staff members; the IFRC office shares the premises and is well integrated into the National Society's main office in Sarajevo. The IFRC activities are financially supported to a great extent by the Italian Red Cross that cooperates with the National Society also in a bilateral modality with a project supporting the integration of Roma minorities and income-generating activities. The IFRC office in Bosnia and Herzegovina reports to the Europe Zone Office in Budapest that is providing technical assistance and closely monitoring the activities. The current DREF request has been developed with the important support of the Europe Zone Disaster Management team.

Other National Societies present in country are the Swiss Red Cross, working in the Canton of Tuzla and the Red Crescent of the United Arab Emirates, working in the Sarajevo Canton. Both Cantons are affected by the present floods. In order to establish and ensure the maximum coordination both the ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross have been contacted by the National Society at the onset of the emergency. Contacts are established with the Swiss Red Cross, the Austrian Red Cross, the Red Cross of Slovenia, the Montenegro Red Cross, the Swedish RC, the Turkish Red Crescent and the Hungarian Red Cross.

Movement Coordination

Coordination among the Movement partners is ensured through meetings organized regularly with the presence of the representatives of the National Society, ICRC and IFRC. Recently discussion started between the IFRC and the ICRC aimed to define a Movement coordination agreement to be signed and that should ensure the best possible coordination also in cases of emergencies.

The IFRC Country Office provided technical support to the National Society in preparing the DREF document. ICRC and Swiss Red Cross are also actively supporting the National Society response to the emergency. The ICRC Delegation in Sarajevo made available two 4WD cars with drivers to the Red Cross of Federation BiH and Red Cross of Republika Srpska to help them reach the affected areas and population. The Swiss Red Cross donated 200 packages of diapers, 3,900 bottled water and 4,000 pieces of canned meat to Tuzla Canton Red Cross.

Montenegro Red Cross sent truckloads of rubber boots (204 pairs), blankets (600 pieces), canned food (8,200 items), water (6,500 litres) and other relief items.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the entity's government are having permanent sessions due to the state of emergency in the country. Also, BiH army forces are participating with helicopters to evacuate the affected population. Support is also provided by the Republic of Croatia with mountain rescue, boats, etc.), USAID has donated to RCS BiH 13 boats, The Coca-Cola Company has donated 14 pallets of bottled drinking water; the Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina announced its help (engaging all its employees in all branches of BiH). The Red Cross Society is also getting a great number of supportive calls from individuals, companies and institutions, and also many calls from Bosnian people living abroad.

So far, the below commitments and deliveries have been made on a bilateral basis:

- Austria has offered eight motor boats, including personnel. A second tranche of aid from Austria provided 12 tonnes of food in total out of which 4 tonnes are designated for children, along with 120 inflatable boats, 4,000 mattresses and 5,000 blankets.
- Slovenia has offered four motor boats and two helicopters, with crew.
- Luxembourg has offered one flood rescue module, comprising of five boats.

- Germany has offered 17 helicopters. The United Kingdom has offered 8 boats.
- The Republic of Croatia has offered assistance with two helicopters and crew equipped for evacuation and six boats with personnel.
- Several other countries are collecting food and other consumer goods (USA, Qatar, etc.).
- The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has offered four boats, 20 power aggregates, 23 small capacity pumps, 2 high capacity pumps, 3,000 blankets, medicines and a rescue crew of 30 persons. EUFOR has deployed 80 soldiers and 20 trucks.
- Turkey is sending one cargo plane with 1,000 blankets and 125,000 bags for filling with sand.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Initial rapid assessment has been conducted and is still ongoing by the multipurpose units/teams of local RC branches in cooperation with civil protection, and under the umbrella of disaster management coordinators at entity levels. The affected communities are and will be involved during the initial assessment, program design and feedback mechanism to shape the proposed relief and response operation. Once the operation is initiated, community members will be involved in assisting the RCSBIH team in the identification of beneficiaries as part of relief distribution.

Assessments reports have been received from most of the affected municipalities and the initial analysis highlights the following key priorities for the flooded areas:

- Emergency shelter and support for re-building damaged houses;
- Food and non-food items;
- Psychosocial support;
- Safe drinking water and hygiene items;
- Basic health services (medical supplies and transportation/evacuation to the hospitals).

The immediate focus is on the relief phase, but planning has already started for recovery and rehabilitation.

In particular for the areas of Brcko District and Semberija where thousands of hectares of agricultural lands have been destroyed will represent longer-term challenges as cultivation was the main source of income for people affected.

As the situation is still ongoing and areas are still under floods, continued assessments will have to be carried out to have a clear picture on the real damages and needs.

Table 1. Preliminary assessment identified the following total needs in the affected areas

Item	Quantity	Red Cross Federation BiH	Red Cross Republika Srpska	Brcko District	Total
Blankets	pcs	2,000	4,000	1,000	7,000
Linen sheets	pcs	500	1,300	200	2,000
Mattresses	pcs	2,000	1,500	500	4,000
Rubber boots	pcs	1,000	4,200	500	5,700
Water disinfectant	litres	1,000	0	0	1,000
Hygiene parcels	pcs	2,000	3,740	500	6,240
Diapers for adults	pcs	5,000	0	0	5,000
Baby diapers	pcs	5,000	0	50	5,050
Food parcels	pcs	2,000	4,955	500	7,455
Jerry cans		1,000	1,000	500	2,500
Boats	pcs	3	3	2	8
Big water pumps	pcs	100	0	0	100
Small water pumps	pcs	10	2,655	0	2,665
Generators	pcs	10	0		10
Candles	pcs	1,000	1,270	500	2,770

Selection of beneficiaries

Based on the rapid needs assessment, the initial intention was to cover the entire needs of 6,900 families (Republika Srpska 5,000 families, Federation BiH 1,500 families, Brčko District 400 families) with relief items and health promotion. Following the rapid response of international aid, it was decided to focus the DREF operation on covering basic needs of 2,000 families only on the whole territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The direct beneficiaries include elderly people, women and children as they are part of the most-at-risk groups when a disaster strikes. More specifically, the direct beneficiaries within the local populations have been identified based on their level of vulnerability in coping with the disasters. Factors considered in their selection include socio-economic status of the beneficiaries prioritized as most-at-risk. Female-headed households and large family size are other criteria for consideration.

Priority will be given to:

- Families most affected by the floods and landslides that had to be evacuated from their homes.
- Families with women as breadwinners (widows), elderly couples, young couples with small children.
- Families who are not recipients of any substantial assistance, especially housing by government, NGOs and other organizations

Risk Assessment

Along with the heavy rains, in some parts of the country snowfalls caused problems, in particular in the mountains of Trebevic, Jahorina and Karaula, hence the possibility of more floods and landslide cannot be excluded. Weather forecasts indicate that rain is likely to continue in the following few days. Therefore there is a potential for further flooding across the central, northern and eastern parts of the country.

Among the areas at risk are the municipalities of Maglaj, Donoj, Zenica, Bijeljina, Banja Luka Tuzla, Brčko, Modriči, Bosanskom Šamcu, Vareš, Gradačac, Mrkonjić-Grad, Zvornik, and Prijedor.

A vast number of landslides, road blockages and infrastructure damages have further worsened the situation and relief efforts. There are reports that landmines that had been buried during the conflict and have not yet been removed are in some instances being shifted to the ground surface with the landslides, adding to the risk of injury to people living in the areas as well as rescuers.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The immediate needs of the people affected by the floods and landslides in the central, northern and eastern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina are met through the provision of basic food and non-food items for 2,000 families¹.

Proposed strategy

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its structure, including staff, volunteers, and multipurpose units/teams is present across the affected areas, and it has been actively engaged in the response over the past weeks, since the heavy rains started. The operation is relief-focused, providing the affected population, and especially the evacuated population, with shelter and essential household items.

Relief items are being distributed based on beneficiary selection criteria and in close coordination with the civil protection service and local authorities.

After the initial assessment, an agreement of principle was reached with the National Society to focus the DREF operation on fully covering the assessed needs for the following categories of items only: blankets, mattresses, rubber boots, water disinfectant materials, food and hygiene parcels. Since the situation changed rapidly in the following days with a massive response from other international donors in terms of relief items (see the list of bilateral commitments and contributions in the "Overview" section), it has been agreed to shift the focus of this DREF operation on covering the household needs of 2,000 families only, and at the same time to concentrate on items needed to face the extremely difficult hygienic conditions in the affected areas by distributing disinfectant materials, rubber boots and hygiene parcels. This DREF will be immediately followed by the preparation of an Emergency Appeal in order to alleviate the consequences of the extreme floods.

¹ Approximately 4 members in each family.

Table 2. List of items to be purchased through the DREF allocation

Item	Quantity	Unit
Blankets	pcs	2,000
Mattresses	pcs	2,000
Rubber boots	pcs	5,496
Hygiene parcels	pcs	6,240
Food parcels	pcs	2,000
Jerry cans	pcs	2,500
Water disinfectant	L	2,300

Micro distribution will be done directly by Red Cross Volunteers and through the civil protection and BiH local authorities when needed.

This DREF provides assistance with food and non-food items for 2,000 families. The replenishment of the National Society's stocks will be based on actual distribution figures. Figures on items to be distributed are expected to rise given that evacuations are still ongoing, and the operation is expected to continue for a number of weeks.

In order to reduce the risk of water-borne and sanitation-related diseases, RCSBiH will utilize water and sanitation kits in stock to provide the households with purification sachets as the first step.

The tools for shelter improvement will be provided, based on the assumption that not all selected families will need this assistance. As the situation is still evolving, and further flooding is expected to occur in the following weeks, RCSBiH will maintain its current practice of continuous assessments in the affected areas to directly assist the most vulnerable beneficiaries.

Operational support services

Human resources

The operation is expected to involve 200 Red Cross staff and 200 Red Cross volunteers. In total, RCSBiH has already assigned 12 persons in each affected area and entity RC headquarters for assessments in the different affected areas.

Depending on how the situation evolves, more assessment teams could be sent out. This DREF covers travel, accommodation and per-diem costs related to the staff and volunteers. Further, pending on finalization of broader insurance schemes, the DREF covers insurance for the volunteers participating in the operation through the IFRC global volunteer insurance scheme.

Logistics and supply chain

DREF items will be procured locally. Tender procedure will be conducted by the IFRC Country Office. The contracts with suppliers will include macro distribution to NS warehouses while micro distribution will be conducted in coordination with Civil Protection and Red Cross volunteers.

Communications

Maintaining the on-going communication channels with the affected population, local multipurpose units / teams, RCSBiH HQ and major stakeholders will be given a priority as a ground for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining profile of emergency operations.

This document will serve to communicate RCSBiH progress to its partners in response to the floods highlighting the pressing humanitarian needs of those affected by the floods. The RCSBiH HQ will provide regular/weekly updates/briefs to the International Federation on the progress of the response action.

During the relief distribution and rescue activities, visibility for this operation will be ensured through national and local media and press releases, highlighting messages of dedication, courage and impartiality of RCSBiH staff and volunteers to assist everyone in need, regardless of their location or ethnic affiliation. Operation-related news and photos will be disseminated through the electronic media, social media, newspapers and the RCSBiH website.

Moreover, Red Cross volunteers and staff included in the operation will wear uniform/outfits with the Red Cross emblem during operations and distributions.

The International Federation will continue to support the National Society to improve its communications capacities and develop appropriate communication tools. In addition, it will support the RCSBiH in advocating with the government and policy makers for better preparedness and response to natural disasters. The International Federation's Representation in the country will liaise with the IFRC Europe Zone Office Communication Department to promote the RCSBiH's response internationally.

Security

The floods have activated existing and new landslides in many areas and damaged the infrastructure (roads, bridges, fences, dams, households, electric supply, etc.). The risks of injury of the RC staff and volunteers during the distribution of relief items, rescue or evacuation activities are high. The RC staff and volunteers will receive proper briefing before moving to the field in order to be informed about risks in flooded areas. The disaster response teams have undergone first aid training. Teams in Brcko and Bieljina have also undergone water rescue training. Injury insurance is provided for the disaster response teams.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

The National Society and IFRC representation in the country will continuously monitor the implementation of activities and control the quality of the relief items before the procurement and distribution. In addition Red Cross Society BiH in cooperation with IFRC Country office will oversee all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the present operation in the flood and landslide affected areas through its country-wide network of branches and volunteers.

The responsibility for day-to-day monitoring of the operation will be with RCSBiH local branches but supervised closely by their cantonal/regional/entity offices and RCSBiH headquarters to ensure appropriate accountability, transparency and financial management of the operation.

The affected areas will be also visited by joint IFRC and RCSBiH monitoring teams. This will help identify and, where possible and necessary, resolve any problems. The situation in the field will be reported on through daily reports and monthly progress reports. Reports will provide necessary information in relation to the progress of the operation, any changes in the situation during the reporting period, and any particular problem, constraints or un-met needs.

At the end of the operation and implementation of this DREF, an after-action review will be conducted. This review will be a joint effort of the RCSBiH and IFRC to ensure that lessons learned from the preparedness work ahead of the season as well as the response operations are captured and used to further developing RCSBiH, IFRC and partners' capacities. A final report on this DREF-supported operation will be made available three months after the end of the operation.

Administration and Finance

The operation will rely on the existing financial management and administration systems in RCSBiH, supported by IFRC.

A monitoring mission will be taken place from EZO to support the NS.

Provisions have been made for communication costs related to the operation as well as financial charges and general expenses (refer to budget).

Contact Information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

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DREF OPERATION

18.05.2014

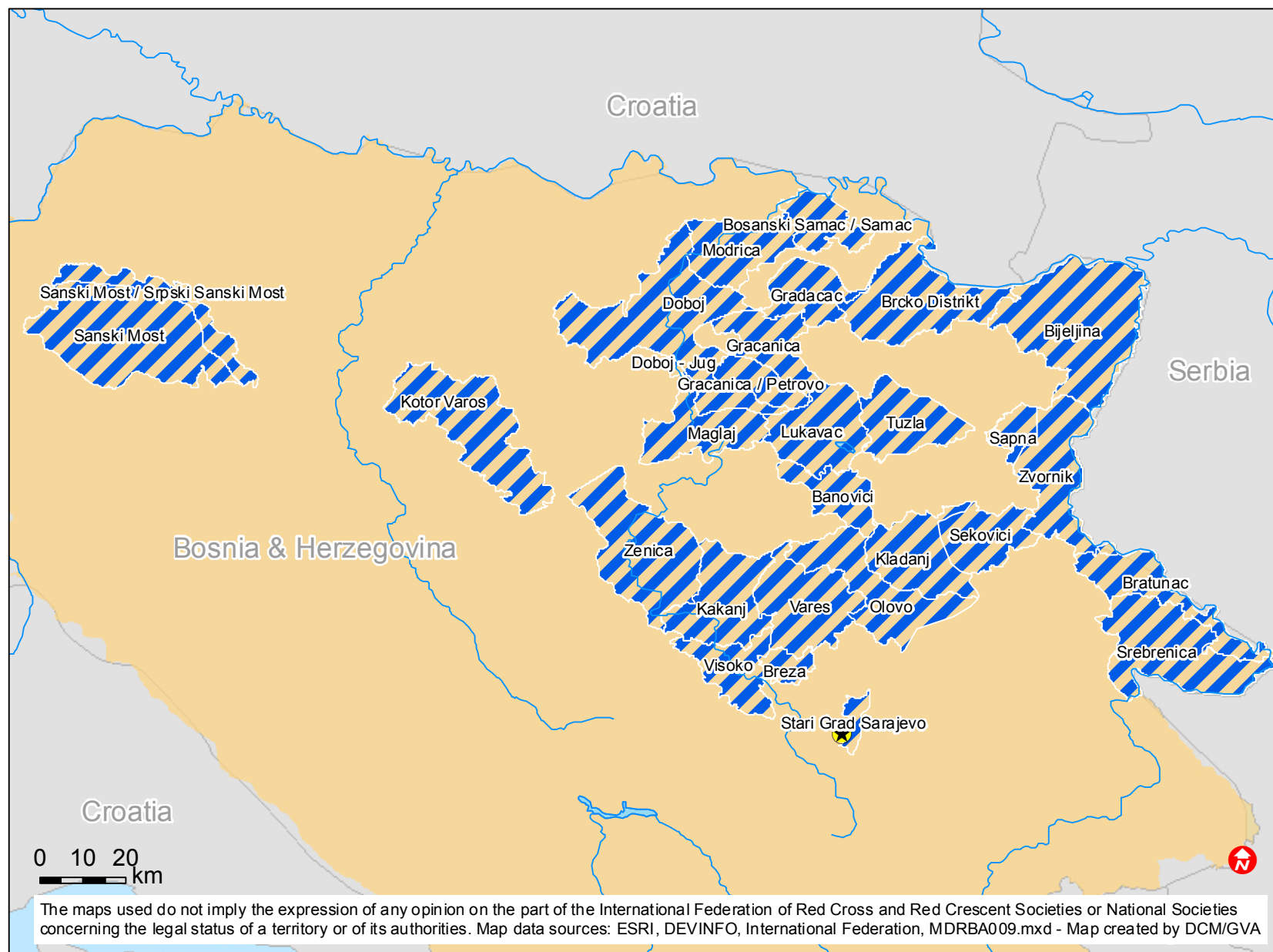
Bosnia

DREF May 2014

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	113,025
Food	43,720
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	142,337
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	299,083
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	3,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,500
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	5,000
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	
Volunteers	375
Total PERSONNEL	375
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	1,500
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	1,500
Travel	3,500
Information & Public Relations	1,200
Office Costs	1,700
Communications	500
Financial Charges	270
Other General Expenses	500
Shared Office and Services Costs	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	7,670
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	20,386
Total INDIRECT COSTS	20,386
TOTAL BUDGET	334,013



Bosnia and Herzegovina: Floods



/ / Affected municipalities