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Emergency appeal operations update

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRBA009	GLIDE n° FF-2014-000059-BIH
Operations update n° 1	Timeframe covered by this update: 25 May 2014 – 20 June 2014
Emergency Appeal operation start date: 25 May 2014	Timeframe: 9 months
Appeal budget: CHF 4,522,235	Appeal coverage: 25 %
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 334,013	
Number of people being assisted: 40,000	
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (7,000 volunteers, 200 staff, 142 branches)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (both bilaterally and multilaterally): American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Bulgarian Red Cross; Canadian Red Cross, Czech Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Hellenic Red Cross, Iranian Red Crescent, Japanese Red Cross, Macedonian Red Cross, Montenegro Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Romanian Red Cross, Slovenian Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent.	

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 4,522,235 to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina to deliver assistance and support to some 10,000 flood-affected families (40,000 people).

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH), having a defined role at national level agreed with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has been providing humanitarian assistance covering urgent needs through its local branches to all affected population eligible to receive humanitarian aid.



Spanish RC FACT Livelihoods delegate talking to a beneficiary in Bijeljina, a place badly affected by the floods.
Photo Nicole Robicheau/IFRC

Summary

On 13 May 2014 unprecedented floods inundated large areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, affecting over a million people, displacing 89,981 residents¹. The number of reported casualties is 25. The severe and widespread rains triggered over 3,000 landslides affecting 1 million people in 46 municipalities. 75,000 houses were hit by floods and/or landslides², of which 25,000 houses were severely damaged or completely destroyed. According to the Recovery Assessment conducted by WB, UN and EUCP, the value of the damage to livelihood is calculated at 626.4 million BAM or 390 million CHF, damage to housing: 822.7 million BAM or 512 million CHF, whereas the damage to the health sector is estimated at 11.3 million BAM (7 million CHF) and water and sanitation facilities at 10.6 million BAM (6.6 million CHF).

Coordination and partnerships

Coordination among Movement partners is being ensured through regular information exchange and meeting between the National Society and the Movement partners.

Immediately following the disaster, IFRC deployed a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) to strengthen assessments of needs, ensure coordination with other actors and develop a plan of action. The FACT is composed of logistics, communication, WatSan, Im/GIS, cash, psycho-social support delegates, a financial analyst and a team leader. RCSBiH, ICRC and IFRC have been meeting regularly. The meeting is chaired by the RCSBiH and the purpose is to share information and ensure synergy amongst the movement components.

Many National Societies are supporting the RCSBiH with financial or in-kind contributions either bilaterally or through the Emergency Appeal. The financial contributions received so far for the IFRC Emergency Appeal have been provided by the American Red Cross, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, the Iranian Red Crescent, the Japanese Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross.

Swiss Red Cross has a long term bilateral engagement with RCSBiH with an office in Tuzla. Since the onset of the floods, Swiss Red Cross has provided support in the form of NFIs, items for cleaning, disinfecting homes and dehumidifiers. Swiss Red Cross and Austrian Red Cross have mobilized substantial support and jointly with RCSBiH, will conduct a programme to support livelihoods recovery and the rehabilitation of houses.

The Government of BiH is in charge of coordinating humanitarian aid at the national level. There have been national coordination meetings on a daily basis amongst national actors. Together with UNDP, the National Civil Protection is hosting international coordination meetings with international partners, in the initial phase three times a week; frequency has now been reduced to one meeting per week.

Assessment

IFRC deployed a FACT to strengthen assessments of needs, ensure coordination with other actors and develop a plan of action. Even though there are no consolidated official figures available yet in the country in general, the initial assessments were made in the following areas: health, psychosocial support, water and sanitation, relief distribution, house repairing materials and livelihoods.

Despite the fact that some minor healthcare posts were partially or totally damaged by floods, the major health institutions were able to resume their functioning as soon as the water receded, and there was no need for foreign medical teams, nor for the IFRC to deploy global tools, Emergency Response Units, such as field hospitals, mobile clinics for basic health care and water and sanitation (WatSan) units.

Priority needs as of 19 June 2014

Livelihoods recovery: This is identified as one of the most pressing needs as many people have lost their source of income, be it crops, livestock, job opportunities or small businesses, and have no prospect of an income in the foreseeable future.

House repair materials (and basic household items): Rehabilitation of housing is identified as the second major priority. Funds are urgently required to provide a package of support for minor repairs of houses (shelter kits), clearing, sanitizing and drying of houses, and paint.

¹ According to UN, WB, EUCP Recovery Assessment

² According to UNDP assessment

Water and sanitation: There is a need to ensure access to safe drinking water and good hygiene practices. IFRC has been requested to provide support for the cleaning of wells and water purification at household level and hygiene promotion.

Psycho-social support (PSS): Many people have experienced the floods as a re-traumatising event, disrupting their daily routines and bringing back memories of loss and insecurity from the war. Together with the RCSBiH, the IFRC is assessing the needs for a PSS programme.

Operational implementation

Since the onset of the floods, the RCSBiH has been heavily involved in responding to the disaster. 200 Red Cross staff and more than 7,000 volunteers have been mobilized and actively engaged in rescue operations, provision of emergency relief items, first aid, evacuation of population and setting up temporary accommodations centres. In the first weeks of the disaster, RCSBiH distributed food parcels, hygiene kits, bottled water and basic accommodation items such as blankets and mattresses to the people staying in evacuation centres and with host families.

More than 40,000 families have been supported in the first weeks. RCSBiH continues to provide support to those who have completely lost their dwellings, and will have to continue in temporary accommodation such as collective centres. There were around 1,384 people accommodated in collective centres, but the numbers are decreasing rapidly. 18,836 non-food items and packages have been distributed and an additional 7,680 items are ready to be distributed.

Progress

Planned intervention	Progress
Water, sanitation, & hygiene promotion	
<p>Outcome 1: The risk of water and sanitation related diseases have been reduced through access to safe drinking water, appropriate sanitation to reduce the risk of water-borne diseases and hygiene promotion (water disinfectant, canisters and hygiene parcels)</p>	<p>FACT assessments clarified that there was no need for deployment of water and/or sanitation ERUs through the global tools mechanism. The following items have been provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6,240 hygiene kits • 2,500 water canisters, • 5,496 pairs of rubber boots • 40 water pumps <p>Items that have been purchased and soon will be distributed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,500 hygiene kits • 2,500 units of disinfectants.
<p>Output 1: Improve the hygiene situation of up to 40,000 beneficiaries</p>	<p>A series of trainings on hygiene promotion, water purification and cleaning of wells at household level are planned for July</p>
Shelter and settlements	
<p>Output 1: 10,000 families receive basic emergency shelter items (blankets and mattresses) and appropriate tools for shelter improvement and/or cleaning</p>	<p>RCSBiH has provided shelter materials for families affected by the floods in all of the affected areas. The items include blankets, mattresses, and items for cleaning and drying houses. IFRC contributed so far with 2,000 blankets and 2,000 mattresses, 40 water pumps and 40 dehumidifiers. 1,300 blankets and 1,300 mattresses. In pipeline: 1,000 cleaning tools packages.</p>
<p>Output 2: 10,000 affected families are assisted on return to their homes (partially damaged by floods) with cleaning kits and drying facilities</p>	
<p>Output 3: 10,000 affected families are safely back in their houses, their health preserved through ensuring optimum hygiene conditions</p>	<p>RCSBiH is supporting the affected population in returning to their homes, providing cleaning and disinfection materials and disseminating key hygiene messages related to cleaning of houses. It provided 2,500 units of disinfectants and providing support for</p>

	training of volunteers in cleaning of wells and hygiene promotion.
Food security, nutrition, and livelihoods	
Output 1: Food parcels distributed to beneficiaries in the affected areas	RCSBiH has provided food for approximately 40,000 people – 10,000 affected families in all affected areas, out of which IFRC has provided 2,000 parcels of canned food and an additional 1,500 are in the pipeline.
Livelihoods	
Outcome 1: Vulnerable groups, in particular the population in the rural zones in the most affected area, have been evaluated and targeted through a cash transfer programme	Cash transfer methodology is being developed to target 1,000 families in Orasje, Brcko and Bijeljina. The locations, the composition of the package and vulnerability selection criteria have been developed in coordination with Swiss Red Cross & Austrian Red Cross.
Output 1: Evaluations related to food security and livelihoods during response and recovery are conducted and the intervention opportunities in livelihoods of target groups are identified and implemented	The first training of volunteers for beneficiary selection, concept and methodology was conducted on 16 June in Brcko.
Psycho-Social Support (PSS)	
Outcome 1: The beneficiaries affected by disaster situations are provided with Psycho-Social Services (PSS)	Assessment and planning will start between 25 June – 8 July.
Output 1: Psycho-social support is provided to the target population	To be defined.

The main planned intervention areas the Emergency Appeal seeks to cover are the following:

- water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH),
- health and care (including psycho-social support),
- food security, nutrition and livelihood,
- shelter and settlements (and household items).

The IFRC aims to produce a revision of the Emergency Appeal, which will include all bilateral contributions received by the RCSBiH from donors in order to present an overall picture of the support received by the BiH National Society.

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Click [here](#)

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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.