



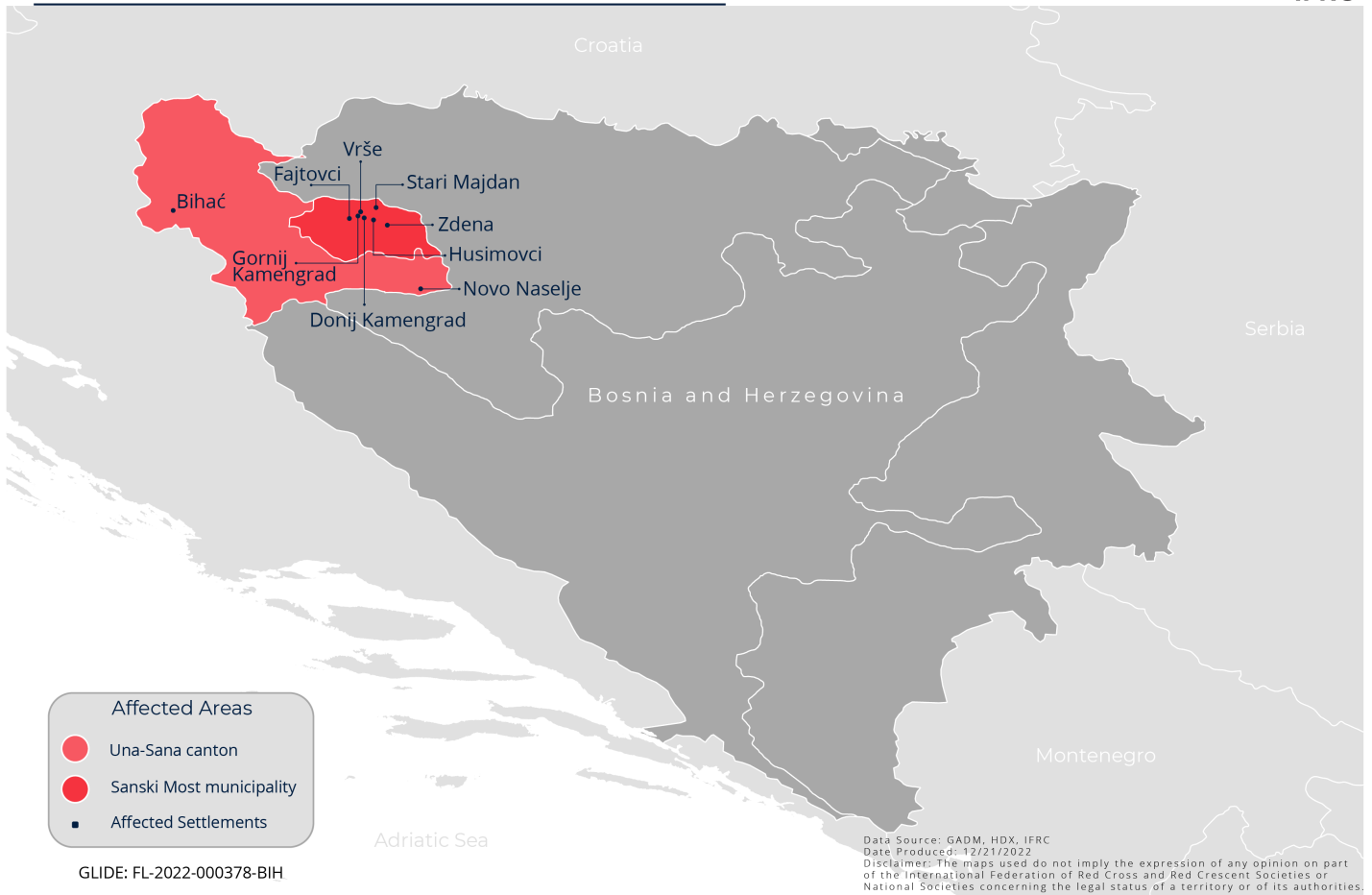
RCSBiH volunteers assisting flooded households; Photo by the RCSBiH

Appeal: MDRBA014	DREF Allocated: CHF 134,251	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: FL-2022-000378-BIH	People Affected: 3,000 people	People Targeted: 3,000 people	
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 2022-12-24	Operation End Date: 2023-04-30	Operation Timeframe: 4 months
	Targeted Areas:	Federacija Bosne i Hercegovine, Republika Srpska	

Description of the Event

Affected Areas

Flood | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 10 December 2022



Map of BiH with flooded areas highlighted

What happened, where and when?

On 12 December 2022, heavy rainfall in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) caused rivers overflow, leading to flooding of local infrastructure, facilities and more than 300 households at the north-west of the country.

By the following day, the water receded from most of the buildings and yards, but more precipitation, rain and snow were expected, risking further spillover from the river. Sanski Most, Bihać and Bosanska Krupa municipalities declared state of emergency due to natural disaster.



Red Cross team during the field assessment

Flooded households in Bihac area

Scope and Scale

Affected people include those with specific vulnerabilities such as older people, persons with disabilities, children. Furthermore, the affected region is a central location in the migration response, including two Temporary Reception Centers for migrants - although, these have not been directly affected by the current floods. People in these areas are mostly living off agriculture, producing agricultural products which is negatively impacted by the consequences of this disaster (destroyed food stocks for winter, firewood, coal, etc.). Water is not drinkable in most of the affected area and many households are using their own water sources (pipes, well and etc.). There is a need to conduct Health promotion and disease prevention and control, especially related to water safety.

Below summarizes the impact of the disaster in affected areas:

1. In Sanski Most, the Bliha River overflowed its banks in several places, endangering citizens and their property. The concrete dam in the bed of the Bliha River was damaged, causing the streams of the Bliha and Zdena rivers coming together and flooding a large number of residential buildings in a short period of time. The water flooded communities along the courses of these two rivers (Zdena, Husimovci, Vrše, Donji Kamengrad, Hatiraj, Gornji Kamengrad, Fajtovci and Novo Naselje) and Stari Majdan from the Majdanuša River. By the evening, the town of Sanski Most itself was flooded. The overflowing of the Željeznica and Gračanica rivers flooded ten households. About 20 households and 30 auxiliary facilities are located in the most threatened area. Road connections in and around Sanski Most have been disrupted. The Mayor of Sanski Most declared a state of natural disaster.
2. In Bihać, the level of the Una River along the entire course were high and exceed critical levels. Local communities in the area reported flooding with around 90 residential buildings fully or partially damaged.
3. In Bosanska Krupa, more than 10 households were affected in the flooded area.
4. In Bosanska Otoka, a total of six houses, two residential buildings and one store were flooded.
5. In Bosanski Petrovac, the fire department had 20 interventions to pump out water from residential buildings. During the night, the most critical situation was in Donji Biščani, Nukići and Bahići.
6. In Gradika, heavy rainfall caused a sharp increase in torrential streams and rivers in Potkozarje villages, and flooding of residential buildings in the area of the city settlement Senjak. There was a sharp increase in water levels and spills of the small rivers Jablanica, Vrbaška and Labina and smaller torrential streams along these rivers. Water entered the courtyards of several households in the Villages of Donji Podgrdaci, Miloševo Brdo, Bistrica and Orahova. Water from the torrential stream in Bistrica poured into the main road Gradiška – Kozarska Dubica, causing a landslide.
7. In Kostajnica, a total of 10 households were flooded. The Una River spilled from the riverbed and torrential streams

caused damage to the bridge in the village of Mrakodol. Damage was reported on several local and main routes. There is an active landslide in the village of Petrinja.

8. In Kozarska Dubica, the Binjačka River poured out in the city settlement Puhalo, where 10 households were flooded. Rivers Knežica and Mlječanica poured out in the village of Međuvođa, and two households were flooded. In the village of Draksenić, there was a breach of the circumferential canal on the small river Rakovica, and 20 households were flooded. Water level of the river Una was high and the main road between Kozarska Dubica and Kostajnica was flooded, so that the water spilled over the Neighbourhood Community Komlenac and the village Vrioci. About 30 households were affected, but no residential buildings were flooded.

9. In Novi Grad, heavy rainfall caused a landslide in which one person lost their life. A total of 200 facilities, including 40 residential buildings and 100 farmlands were flooded. One primary school was also flooded and classes in all schools were suspended. The traffic stopped on a large number of roads. A state of emergency has not been declared, but an emergency flood protection measure has been started

10. In Prijedor, more than 1,000 households including 80 residential buildings and 150 auxiliary facilities were flooded with large areas on which the waters spilled from heavy rainfall

To note, Bosnia and Herzegovina is made up of two entities, namely Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Inter-Entity Boundary Line, commonly abbreviated IEBL, is the administrative line that subdivides the two main parts of the country.

Following the reports of the World Bank, the poverty rate in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 16.9% and the flooded area is among the poorest in the country, therefore in need of basic needs support, especially during the winter.

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population groups?	No
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	Yes
If yes, please specify which operations	MDRBA013 2021

Specify how the lessons learnt from these previous operations are being used to mitigate similar challenges in the current operation

There is a need to improve rapid assessment capacity among Red Cross local branches. Under current procedures, Red Cross local branch secretaries are waiting for the official assessment reports of the Civil Protection Units. RCSBiH has developed a Disaster Management (DM) Strategy which is approved by the leadership and will improve rapid assessment and response in different disasters.

Current National Society Actions

In terms of basic needs, in Bosanska, RC volunteers and staff distributed 30 food parcels while in Bihać, they distributed 50 food parcels as immediate relief to persons in need

Livelihoods And Basic Needs	<p>The Secretary of the RC Sanski Most was in contact with the Civil Protection and community leaders. Ten volunteers and three professionals were hired for field support and to provide food and hygiene packages for affected population</p>
Coordination	<p>Secretaries of the Red Cross branches are equal members of the Rescue and protection HQ on each level. This ensures coordination between Red Cross and Civil Protection. Close collaboration and coordination is established with IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) and Partner National Societies (PNS) present in country.</p> <p>A core coordination team meeting was held on 19 December, during which it was agreed to proceed with the DREF application. Request for situation reports was sent to RC organizations in Una-Sana Tuzla, Posavina, Zenica-Doboj, Central Bosnia, West-Herzegovina, and Herzegovina-Neretva cantons.</p>
Assessment	<p>Based on the DM strategy of RCSBiH, Red Cross local branches conducted rapid assessments in close coordination with the RC entity levels and the HQ of the RCSBiH. Assessment was done in close collaboration with the local municipalities and Civil Protection Units. Standard assessment form were used during the initial assessment.</p> <p>The Secretary of the RC Bosanska Krupa as part of the Emergency Civil Protection Unit participated in the needs assessment.</p>
Health	<p>Trained Red Cross staff and volunteers in the field have been conducting mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities for the most affected people since the onset of the disaster. The National Society has a strong background in MHPSS with trained staff and volunteers able to provide the necessary support to people affected by traumatic events and disasters.</p> <p>As of 23 December, Red Cross volunteers and staff had provided PSS to 3 families in Bosanska and to 20 persons in Bihać.</p>
National Society EOC	<p>National Society Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated immediately in both RC entity branches and at the HQ. Coordination meetings were held through EOCs. RC volunteers and staff in the field were assisting governmental institutions and citizens</p> <p>The Secretary of RC Kostajnica regularly attends the meetings of the Emergency Situations HQ.</p> <p>RC Kozarska Dubica: The Emergency Situations HQ has its session and was attended by the Secretary of the RC Novi Grad.</p> <p>RC Prijedor: The telephone session of the Emergency Situations HQ in Prijedor was held and it was ordered to be on standby and on duty.</p>
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	<p>In Bihać, RC teams have distributed 50 liters of drinking water, 50 hygiene parcels, boots and dehumidifiers to support the response</p> <p>On 13 December, the RCRS DM Coordinator visited flooded areas in Gradiška, Kostajnica, Kozarska Dubica, Novi Grad and Prijedor. Emergency assistance was delivered. The aid consisted of rubber boots, disinfectants, raincoats, blankets, shovels, protective masks and food packages (in the amount of over</p>

	BAM 7,500) In some other areas, support was delivered by boat and included 3,500 litres of water, 180 hygiene kits, 560 pairs of boots, 30 dehumidifiers, 250 raincoats, 20 shovels, 60 buckets, 55 blankets, etc.).
National Society Readiness	Red Cross local branches in affected areas immediately provided basic support to directly affected population by distributing food, hot meals, water, hygiene kits and non-food items (NFIs) amongst others, from their warehouse.

Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

IFRC	On 11 December, National Society management and disaster management staff held an online meeting with the IFRC Cluster Office representatives to inform about the current situation and discuss possible DREF application.
ICRC	ICRC is present in the country but not involved in this operation.
Participating National Societies	The Turkish Red Crescent delegation was in contact after receiving initial information in order to check for the situation and possible needs for the support. The Turkish Red Crescent delegation informed their HQ about the event and potential needs. Possible support is not known yet. Swiss Red Cross Delegation in country is providing technical support for RCSBiH in PMER and DREF application.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	Authorities in five municipalities and cities declared the state of natural disaster. All actors within the Civil Protection System are engaged in the response and in repairing infrastructure. Firefighters and private sector actors with machines were working on the reconstruction of infrastructure.
UN or other actors	At the moment, it is unclear if the UN System or other actors are involved in response operations. This information is not available to the National Society.

Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Health

There is a need for Health promotion and disease prevention and control, especially regarding water safety, as in some areas water is not safe for drinking and many households are using their own water sources (pipes, well and etc.).

Also, there is a need for providing MHPSS for the affected population. The RCSBiH has considerable capacities in MHPSS. Several different MPHSS trainings have been conducted in the region with participation by RCSBiH staff.

Trained volunteers are already providing PSS, and training has already taken place, therefore this activity does not carry additional costs and is not reflected in the budget.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Considering the fact that water is not safe for drinking in some areas, there is a need for distribution of bottled water for households. It is also important to work on hygiene promotion in affected areas.

The identified needs include dehumidifiers, water pumps, cleaning kits, raincoats, rubber boots (large sizes, 43 to 46), food and hygiene parcels, blankets, disinfectants, buckets, gloves, and bedding



Migration

The affected region is already under significant pressure due to population movement, and the humanitarian response to arising needs - including two Temporary Reception Centers and a significant number of migrants in transit and displaced persons in the affected area, which exacerbates the impact of the current disaster and especially the capacities of the relevant actors to respond. However, migrants are not directly affected by the floods.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

People in these areas are mostly living off agriculture, producing agricultural products which is negatively impacted by the consequences by this disaster (destroyed food stocks for winter, firewood, coal and etc.). Following the reports of the World Bank, poverty rate in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 16.9% and the flooded area is among the poorest in the country, therefore it is essential to provide basic needs support, especially during the winter.



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The National Societies branches has depleted its stocks by providing household items as described under "Scale and Scope" section. As such, there is a need to replenish these items to ensure readiness as worsening conditions are expected.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This DREF operation aims at ensuring the health and basic needs of at least 3,000 people most affected by floods in Krajina Region in the Republic of Srpska and Una Sana Canton in Federation of BiH. Of the above, 1,500 people will receive livelihoods and basic needs support through cash assistance.

The RCSBiH will ensure that the needs for health support and disease prevention will be met through MHPSS activities, promotion of safe water and cash assistance for the most vulnerable population.

Operation strategy rationale

To address the needs of the targeted population, this DREF operation will support the most affected population through the following activities:

Unconditional cash grants will be provided to 1,500 most vulnerable people (330 household) among the population affected by the floods. This will allow households to meet their most urgent needs according to their personal priorities, while respecting their dignity. Recipients of the assistance will be selected in cooperation with local authorities, Service for Social Affairs and Civil Protection. Red Cross volunteers will conduct monitoring field visits before and after the planned cash and voucher assistance (CVA) activities. To note, the National Society does not have an agreement with a financial service provider. However, RCSBiH is already implementing CVA in different modalities, depending on donor requests. Different projects such as mitigation measures from Covid-19 for Roma population, sensitization of local population influenced by the migration crisis, and social support programs during the winter months and as a tool for rapid rehabilitation and recovery after emergencies, are included in CVA component, thus the RCSBiH has the experience with banks and the post office to support the delivery of a cash program. □

There is limited access to safe drinking water in some areas and RCSBiH will create and distribute leaflets/brochures on water safety, e.g., how to sterilize water. RCSBiH will design and distribute leaflets on health & hygiene promotion and disease prevention, which is especially important after the water has receded. RCSBH will raise awareness of health and hygiene through available social media channels, with aim of reaching overall 3,000 affected persons.

RCSBH will ensure sufficient emergency stock to adequately respond to floods in the coming months through replenishment of HQ and branch emergency stock. This is very important as there is a high risk of floods in the current season and the National Society, through its branches already provided direct support to affected households.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The most vulnerable people among the households affected by the floods will be targeted based on vulnerability selection criteria, including disabled, older people, children, migrants, refugees and other groups who do not have support networks and lack the capacity to cope with the disaster situation.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

To ensure that the most vulnerable part of the population is reached, the local Red Cross branches in close collaboration with the local authorities, targeting will be done by identifying affected families which have lost or damaged livelihoods and household objects, socially vulnerable households, households with more than five members, single parent households, Roma national minority, people with disabilities and older people.

Total Targeted Population

Women:	1,600	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	-	%	%
Men:	1,400	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	-	%	
Total targeted population:	3,000		

Risk and security considerations


Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions


Risk	Mitigation action
There is a possibility of new rainfalls and river overflows which can cause different needs and in different areas.	RCSBiH will monitor the situation in real time.
It is possible that households are receiving support form other actors.	Baseline survey will be implemented in order to avoid duplication.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation


Some infrastructure is damaged. There is a risk of new landslides. Civil Protection Units are equipped and ready to deal with new similar situations.


Planned Intervention


	Shelter Housing And Settlements	Budget	CHF 4,338
		Targeted Persons	600
Indicators		Target	
# of people reached with housing and settlement support		600	
Priority Actions:		<p>RC branches distributed items from their stocks based on the needs and calls received. The distributed items varied according to the stocks available as such, it is necessary to replenish to ensure National Societies capacity to respond is maintained. Stocks to be replenished include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Boots - Replenishment of NS stock (RC Bihac) 55 pairs * Boots - Replenishment of NS stock (RC USC) 300 pairs * Boots - Replenishment of NS stock (RC RS) 200 pairs * Shovel - Replenishment of NS stock (RC RS) 20 pcs * Disinfectants - reimbursement of expenses (RC RS) 55 pcs * Bucket - Replenishment of NS stock (RC RS) 60 pcs * Raincoats - Replenishment of NS stock (RC RS) 250 pcs. 	


	Multi-purpose Cash	Budget	CHF 93,322
		Targeted Persons	990
Indicators		Target	
# of people reached with unconditional cash grants		990	
Priority Actions:		<p>The distribution amount of BAM 500 per household is approximately 50% of the average salary in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is enough to be a top-up for basic needs, including increased energy and heating costs. A total of 330 households are going to be supported, which will amount to approximately 990 people supported.</p> <p>Furthermore, the call center costs for baseline and post-distribution monitoring; and distribution costs will also be covered. IFRC Europe Regional Office Cash delegate will support the preparations and the distribution process. As for the CVA activities, RCBH works with the post office.</p>	

		Budget	CHF 4,948
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	Livelihoods And Basic Needs	Targeted Persons	1500
		Indicators	Target
	# of people reached with immediate basic needs support		1500
	Priority Actions:	<p>Replenishment of NS stocks including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Can food - Replenishment of NS Stock (RC Bihac) 180 pcs * Can food - Replenishment of NS Stock (RC USC) 500 pcs * Food parcels - Replenishment of NS stock (RC RS) 85 pcs * Lunch packs - reimbursement of expenses (RC Bihac) 30 pcs * Lunch packs - reimbursement of expenses (RC USC) 300 pcs * Sandwiches - reimbursement of expenses (RC Bihac & USC) 400 pcs * Bread - reimbursement of expenses (RC Bihac) 70 pcs * Preparation of hot meals - reimbursement of expenses 400 meals <p>Relief items were distributed during the operation depending on the immediate needs and requests on the ground (this included citizens, civil protection and others in need of necessities). Lunch packs and sandwiches were distributed for the civil protection members, firefighters and others on the frontline, as well as to the affected population.</p> <p>The operation covered 10 Red Cross units, different RC branches have differences in the items on stock, therefore the number of items distributed also varies. Overall, 400 people were supported with relief supplies in the first hours of the emergency through the RCSBiH emergency response.</p>	

	Health	Budget	CHF 1,883
		Targeted Persons	3000
Indicators	Target		
	# of people reached with health promotion activities		3000
	# of people reached with promotion of safe water awareness raising		3000
	Priority Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Creation of information education (IE) materials on Health promotion after floods (4,000 pcs) * Creation of materials about safe water after floods (3,000 pcs) * These materials will be distributed during the household visits. 	

	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Budget	CHF 4,744
		Targeted Persons	1500
Indicators		Target	
# of people reached with hygiene promotion activities		1500	
# of people provided with safe drinking water		1500	
Priority Actions:		<p>In the emergency response phase, RCSBiH distributed emergency items from NS contingency stock. The items that were used will be replenished as part of the DREF operation. Also, there is a need to procure additional amount of water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Procurement of drinking water 1liter bottles - 4,000 pcs * Replenishment of Drinking water 5 l – RC273 pcs for the RC Bihac and 200 pcs of 1 litre bottles for the RC USC * Creation of Hygiene promotion leaflets and distribution during the household visits. * Hygiene packages - Replenishment of NS stock (RC Bihac & USC) 	

	National Society Strengthening	Budget	CHF 25,018
		Targeted Persons	100
Indicators		Target	
# of volunteers and staff supported with DM resources		50	
# of volunteers and staff supported with DM capacity building (lessons learned workshop)		50	
Priority Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Engagement of volunteers - costs for meal and refreshment for 2 months (20 volunteers per month) * DM Coordinator at the RC Republic of Rrpska (50% of working time) * DM Officer at the RC Federation of BiH (50% of working time)□ * DREF Focal point at the RCSBH HQ (service contract) * CVA Focal point at the RCSBH HQ (20 % of working time) * Field trips, NS HQ and regional staff (fuel, per diems, accommodation) * Fields visits Local RC branches (fuel costs) * Local and entity RC Offices and HQ Costs (telephone, internet, copy etc.) for 10 offices□ * Lessons learned workshop * Communications & PR Focal point at the RCSBiH HQ (service 	

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

A total of 5 staff and between 20 and 30 volunteers will be involved in this operation.

The Project Coordinator / DREF Focal Point will be in charge of the overall coordination of activities, in direct collaboration with the DM Coordinator/Officer at the Red Cross entities branches (Red Cross of Federation of BiH and Red Cross of Republic of Srpska). □

Communications & PR Focal Point at the NS HQ will be in charge for the visibility, information education (IE) materials, creation of content for social media and video report from the field.

The CVA Focal Point at the NS HQ will be in charge of the overall CVA activities.

DM Coordinator at the Red Cross of Republic of Srpska HQ and DM Officer at the Red Cross of Federation of BiH HQ will be in charge for the coordination of all activities within their structure, collaborating with the local Red Cross branches on the implementation, planning and reporting. Also, they will have field visits in order to monitor situation on the ground. □

All these positions will be supported pro rata, based on their working time.

Beside these staff position, the secretaries of the local Red Cross branches will be in direct implementation of planned activities together with their volunteers. It is planned to have between 20 and 30 volunteers for different project activities mostly working on the pre and post monitoring, when it comes to CVA activities, selection process of the most vulnerable households, aid distribution and health promotion activities.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

Procurement will be managed by the RCSBiH.

RCSBH recently approved its DM strategy and the Rulebook for acting in Emergencies, which requires NS to start developing contingency plans for future disasters. Since Floods are one of the main recurring hazards, NS established preparedness stock that was used during the emergency response. Additional capacity building in this area was done during the response to the Population Movement, and staff and volunteers that were trained in this context proved to be useful during this emergency response.

Modality of distribution for CVA will be post office, since some of the affected people cannot easily access banks or other service providers. Since the needs of the different households affected by the floods vary, vouchers are not suitable for this operation. While initiating the procurement process with the post office for distribution of CVA assistance to the population, the National Society will use the opportunity to start the process of signing the framework agreement with the post office, as one of the FSPs that will be used in the future. Assessments show that the market is still fully functional in the affected areas.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Project manager together with DM Coordinators and Officers from RCSBH will conduct regular field visits. The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation is present in BiH and will support the monitoring of implementation activities. □

A lessons learned workshop will be held at the end of the operation. In addition, a DREF refresher training with possibilities of anticipatory actions will be organized by the IFRC Regional Office for Europe and Country Cluster Delegation within the timeframe of the DREF operation.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.

During this operation, Communications & PR Focal Point at the National Society HQ will be engaged to prepare IE materials, design content for social media and create a video report from the field. The focal point will regularly post news on social network RC official channels (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). RCSBH does not have designated staff for Communications and PR, so this position is covered by Comms Coordinator from the Red Cross of Federation of BiH HQ.

Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRBA014 - Red Cross Society of Bosnia & Herzegovina Floods

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	109,233
Shelter and Basic Household Items	4,338
Livelihoods	4,948
Multi-purpose Cash	93,322
Health	1,883
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	4,744
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	0
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	25,018
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	0
National Society Strengthening	25,018
TOTAL BUDGET	134,251

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Contact Information

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

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