

Emergency Appeal operations update

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Floods

Emergency appeal n° MDRBA009	GLIDE n° FF-2014-000059-BIH
Operations update n° 2 Date of issue: 28 July 2014	Timeframe covered by this update: 20 June 2014 – 20 July 2014
Emergency Appeal operation start date: 25 May 2014	Timeframe: 9 months
Appeal budget: CHF 4,522,235	Appeal coverage: 52 %
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): Albanian Red Cross, American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Bulgarian Red Cross, British Red Cross Canadian Red Cross, Croatian Red Cross, Czech Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross German Red Cross, Hellenic Red Cross, Irish Red Cross, Iranian Red Crescent, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Macedonian Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross, Montenegro Red Cross, Lithuanian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Romanian Red Cross, Slovak Red Cross, Slovenian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, and United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, IFRC Representation in BiH.	
Other partners also involved in the operation: Governments of Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain; Julius Blum GmbH, C&A Foundation, UPS, International Organization for Migration (IOM)	

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 Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH) to deliver assistance and support to some 10,000 flood-affected families (40,000 people).

As significant needs for ongoing recovery activities still remain, *this Operation Update wishes to confirm the need to support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in its activities to help the population affected by the extraordinary floods. The RCSBiH continues to support the ongoing relief and recovery activities.*

Summary

Extraordinary rainfall affected over a million people in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 14 and 19 May 2014, causing the largest floods in 120 years. The number of casualties was 25. The severe and widespread rains triggered over 3,000 landslides. It is estimated that a total of 81 local municipalities suffered damages as well as social and environmental impact of a varying degree.¹

¹ EU, UN, WB Recovery needs assessment for BiH.



RCSBiH volunteer in Brcko District offers support to one of the collective centre's residents.
Photo: RCSBiH

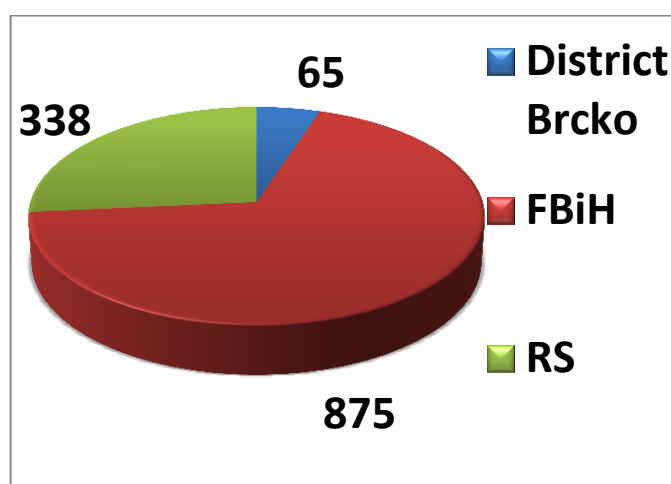
In total, nine municipalities were severely affected (Samac, Odzak, Orasje, Brcko, Bijeljina, Dobo, Magalj, Zepce, Domaljevac-Samac). Around 90,000 persons were temporarily displaced from their homes.

As soon as the waters receded, people began to move back to their homes to clear them of mud, debris and to clean and disinfect primary dwellings. More than 40,000 people took extended refuge in public or private shelters or moved temporarily to relatives or friends.²

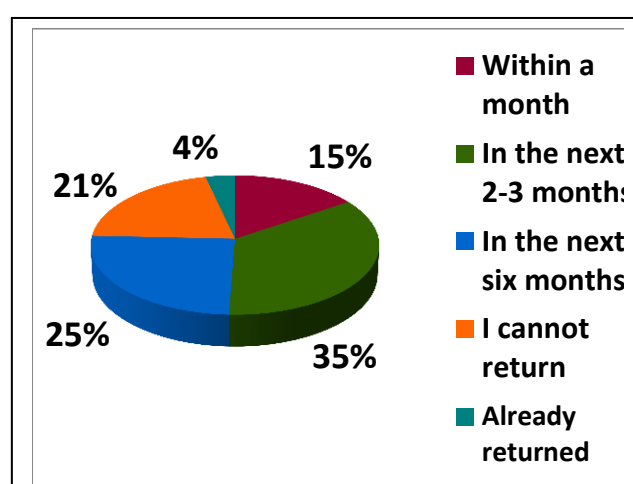
Over 43,000 houses and flats were flooded and 1,952 houses were destroyed due to the landslides. The situation is normalizing now, ten weeks later, and most municipalities are entering the recovery phase which is expected to last for several years. The major needs are for livelihood and small scale rehabilitation of homes.

The situation

Overall around 1,278 persons sought shelter in temporary evacuation facilities (private, military barracks, public) during the month of June.³ The numbers have been increasing ever since as the capacities and resources of many host families and friends have been exhausted, and some are no longer financially capable to host them. However, with the school term beginning in September; alternative housing solutions are needed.



The number of people currently registered in collective centres. (IOM)



Inhibitions/Possibilities to return home (IOM)

Encouragingly, there is only a reduced risk of acute food shortage at present, with no reports of households resorting to serious negative coping strategies. Agriculture production and livestock depletion were two direct consequences of the floods. Rural and suburban families, especially those living in Bijeljina, Brcko, Zepce, Odzak, Orasje, Samac, Sekovici and Domaljevac, have lost a significant portion of their livelihoods, often their only source of income, depleting families' resilience and coping mechanisms.⁴

The health sector is well-functioning. There was neither need for foreign medical teams, nor for the IFRC to deploy Emergency Response Units. However, psycho-social support remains a priority as many people have experienced the floods as a re-traumatizing event, disrupting their daily routines and bringing back memories of loss and insecurity from the war.

Coordination and partnerships

Movement coordination

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

Many National Societies have been 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, Austrian Red Cross, Bulgarian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross,

² EU, UN, WB Recovery needs assessment for BiH

³ IOM

⁴ According to the FACT team assessments

Croatian 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, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Romanian Red Cross, Slovenian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, and United Arab Emirates Red Crescent.

The on-going operation is receiving technical assistance from the IFRC's Developing Head of Operations (DHEOPS) pool, as well as a Cash Transfer/Livelihoods delegate, and a bilateral team of WatSan specialists.

The 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 non-food items (NFI) distributions, items for cleaning, disinfecting homes and dehumidifiers.

Swiss Red Cross and Austrian Red Cross have mobilized substantial support for RCSBiH to conduct a programme to support livelihoods recovery and the rehabilitation of houses by using cash transfer methodology.



Bilateral WatSan support from the Austrian Red Cross arrived in Brcko District.
Photo : IFRC/FACT

The Austrian RC is also providing continued support to the BiH flood operation - both multilaterally and bilaterally. The team was recruited to assist the RC in implementation of the flood operations particularly with setting up a laboratory for water quality testing of wells and hygiene promotion.

The RCSBiH and IFRC have on-going relief food and non-food item distributions in most of the affected areas. However, based on the prioritization of the most vulnerable areas, the geographical targeting for on-going recovery activities for the multi-lateral operation include reaching 3 out of the 9 most vulnerable municipalities; while the bilateral operation is meant to cover 4 out of 9 most affected municipalities for a Movement total coverage of 7 out of 9 - across all planned sector interventions outlined in the Plan of Action of the Emergency Appeal.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

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.

Co-operation was established with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) which has an official co-operation with the Ministries in both Entities, and methodology for psychosocial support was agreed upon. A co-operation with IOM was sought in terms of maximizing resources and impact for the beneficiaries and to ensure professional leadership and guidance to RC volunteers where IOM will provide trainings and guidance to RC volunteers for 3 months.

Assessment

IFRC deployed a field assessment and coordination team (FACT) to strengthen the assessments of needs, ensure coordination with other actors and develop a plan of action. The initial assessments and intervention methodologies were made in the following areas: health, psychosocial support, water and sanitation, relief distribution, house repairs materials and livelihoods.

On-going assessments have been undertaken through the review of secondary data and mapping, key informant interviews with beneficiaries, Red Cross personnel, local government authorities and donor agencies such as UNDP. Further needs analysis and sector awareness are directly contributing to more evidenced-based situation analysis and the identification of feasible response options adhering to the do-no-harm principle. Recommendations from the FACT assessments are being considered based of technical feasibility and capacities.

Operational implementation

A total of 26,664 non-food items and packages were distributed including 3,500 parcels of canned food to the affected areas through the RCSBiH structure (Posavina Canton, Zenicko-dobojski Canton, Tuzla Canton, Unsko-sanski Canton, Sarajvo Canton, Bijeljina, Samac, Dobo, Ugljevik, Donji Zabar, Sekovici).

As the operation has transitioned from Emergency Relief to Recovery focused activities, there has been a shift from blanket distributions to on-going targeted distributions of both food and non-food items. On-going distributions are planned to complete Relief distribution targets.

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Items	TOTAL	RC POSAVINA CANTON	RC ZE-DO CANTON	RC TUZLA CANTON	RC US CANTON	RC SARAJEVO CANTON	RC FBiH
Water canisters	1,125	281	393	225	56	56	114
Matresses (1 per family)	1,337	335	470	268	66	66	132
Blankets (2 per family)	1,337	335	470	268	66	66	132
Driers/dehumidifiers	14	4	7	3			
Clearing tools	335	84	117	67	17	17	33
Disinfectants	839	210	294	168	42	42	83
Hygiene kits	3,647	912	1277	731	182	182	363
Rubber boots	2,473	618	865	494	123	123	250
Water pumps	14	3	5	2	1	1	2
Food canned goods	1,404	350	492	280	70	70	142
Pallet trucks	2						2

Republika Srpska

Items	TOTAL	Bijeljina	Šamac	Dobo	Ugljevik	D. Žabar	Šekovići	CKRS Pale
Water canisters	1,125	240	120				40	725
Matresses (1 per family)	1,660	530	50	310		70		700
Blankets (2 per family)	1,660	280	350	350		160		520
Driers/dehumidifiers	23	15		1				7
Clearing tools	585							585
Disinfectants	1,462							1462
Hygiene kits	4,270	1601	194	903	35		3	1534
Rubber boots	2,470	580	100	600				1138
Water pumps	23							23
Food canned goods	1,777	960	387	375	52		3	0
Pallet trucks	2							2

Items in storage or RCRS Pale will be distributed in flooded areas in Republika Srpska in the following days.

Brcko District

Items	TOTAL	Vucilovac	Krepsic I	Krepsic II	Brka	Brcko	CKBDBIH
Water canisters	250	120	50	30	20	30	
Matresses (1 per family)	303	110	30	30	30	103	
Blankets (2 per family)	303	110	30	30	30	103	
Driers/dehumidifiers	3	1			1	1	
Clearing tools	80	25	20	10	10	15	
Disinfectants	199	110	30	15	15	29	
Hygiene kits	823	400	30	80	80	90	
Rubber boots	550	220	70	40	40	120	
Water pumps	3	1			1	1	
Food canned goods	319	150	70	30	40	29	
Pallet trucks	2						2

Progress

Planned intervention	Progress
Water, sanitation, & hygiene promotion	
<p>Outcome 1: The risk of water and sanitation related diseases has 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.</p> <p>The following items have been provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8,740 hygiene kits • 2,500 water canisters • 5,496 pairs of rubber boots • 40 water pumps • 2,500 units of disinfectants. <p>A laboratory for water testing has been set up Domaljevac in Motel Pauk.</p> <p>Equipment for the laboratory (consumables) in the pipeline.</p> <p>Contacts have been established with the public health institute of Posavina.</p>
<p>Output 1: Improve the hygiene situation of 40,000 beneficiaries</p>	<p>Planning of programme work is done together with RC Brcko branch</p> <p>Training of volunteers on hygiene promotion, water purification was conducted.</p> <p>The planning phase for well cleaning has already commenced in addition to the planning phase for expat staff (rotation), to cover all positions over longer period.</p>
Shelter, settlements and home repairs	
<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. In total 3,300 blankets and 3,300 mattresses, 40 water pumps and 40 dehumidifiers and 1,000 cleaning tool packages were distributed.</p>

Output 2: 10,000 affected families are assisted on return to their homes (partially damaged by floods) with cleaning kits and drying facilities	
Output 3: 10,000 affected families are safely back in their houses, their health preserved through ensuring optimum hygiene conditions	RCSBiH has been 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
Output 4: 1,050 targeted households receive financial support to return to their homes by autumn	Plan and methodology to support 3 municipalities of Brcko, Bijeljina and Maglaj to rehabilitate partially damaged homes to enable the return to homes by autumn have been developed.
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, In total 3,500 parcels of canned food were procured through the Emergency Appeal and distributed
Non-conditional Cash Grant	
Outcome 1: Grant support through a non-conditional cash transfer to economically vulnerable households in the municipalities of Brcko, Bijeljina and Maglaj	Modalities of financial support to a maximum of 1,050 flood affected HHs from Brcko, Bijeljina and Maglaj municipalities have been developed.
Output 1 : Monitoring Monitoring: between phase one and two of cash grants and beyond to examine and document the impact of the recovery	The IFRC PMER Officer in Sarajevo is assigned to lead in developing Post Distribution Monitoring questionnaires, reporting, provision of technical support to the 3 branches in the municipalities and managing PDM process. In addition, explore opportunities for field volunteers to attend trainings linked to the recovery.
Psycho-social Support (PSS)	
Outcome 1: The beneficiaries affected by disaster situations are provided with Psycho-Social Services (PSS)	Assessment of scope, needs and plan of action for PSS Programme has been conducted. Co-operation was established with International Organization for Migration (IOM) and methodology for psychosocial support was agreed upon.
Output 1: Psycho-social support is provided to the target population	Training of trainers in PSS has been conducted with 23 RC participants who will provide assistance to the targeted population in affected areas (Samac, Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Orasje, Brcko District, Tuzla, Zenica, Sarajevo, Zepce, Kiseljak, Vlasenica, Prijedor, Dobo, Maglaj).

Overview of future planned actions

1. Household start-up grant

The non-conditional cash grant is designed as a one-off payment, earmarked for the end of July 2014 through a bank transfer to the individual HHs` bank accounts. An amount of 500 CHF is recommended per household and would supplement immediate needs within the households to support; i) food needs; ii) assist in servicing debts; iii) pay for ongoing household rubble removal and ongoing drying costs; iv) replacing of damaged or destroyed crockery, utensils, pots/pans etc.; v) support utility and possible rent costs; vi) support host families with financial supplement. The target group is 1,050 HHs in the three municipalities of Brcko District, Maglaj and Bijeljina.

2. A cash grant to support household rehabilitation and supplement minor repair costs

The non-conditional cash grant is intended to facilitate minor repairs to at least one room completed by autumn and the family accommodated. A complementary cash grant of 1,000 CHF (in addition to the 500 CHF HH startup grant) is recommended. This amount would cover labour and material costs. For the moment, this grant will be distributed to 150 HHs in Brcko district.

3. Water and sanitation

The target population to be assisted included areas which (except for the distribution of water as an immediate response) have not been covered. Households that are believed to be the most vulnerable in terms of access to water and sanitation provisions, and those who are severely impacted economically will be given priority. Geographic areas include primarily rural areas in the municipalities of Posavina/Domaljevac-Samac (Federation of BiH), Brcko (District of Brcko) and Bijeljina (Republika Srpska). In the following period the hygiene promotion campaign will be developed and shared with the authorities. With the gained knowledge the volunteers will train the affected population in Domaljevac-Samac, Brcko District and Bijeljina. Training on cleaning of wells at household level is planned for the first week of August. A date for the training is yet to be found, fitting for the trainer (an HCK expert), CP and RC branch. Austrian RC has deployed a WatSan Delegate for four months who is responsible for the overall WatSan programme.

4. **Psycho-social support (PSS):** The PSS programme implementation is planned for next three months and it will focus on the following effected areas; Samac, Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Orasje, Brcko District, Tuzla, Zenica, Sarajevo, Zepce, Kiseljak, Vlasenica, Prijedor, Dobo, Maglaj. Moreover, with the support of the IOM, the RC's PSS trained volunteers will receive additional training. In parallel, the feasibility and resource requirements will need to be evaluated in order to fill a very important gap that is critical to ensure the psycho-social well-being of the affected communities. The PSS operational plan including community outreach is being harmonized across two entities and Brcko District. It is envisaged that PSS activities will include community outreach through communication and distribution of key messages, school based presentations, and community information points. The PSS activities will not be a stand-alone project, but will be integrated into the recovery activities, and possibly become part of the long term RCSBiH programmes. Various community activities will be coordinated by field based teams.



RCSBiH volunteer and IFRC operations team in Brcko District visiting beneficiaries.
Photo: RCSBiH



RCSBiH Secretary in Maglaj on a site visit cross-checking and verifying the beneficiary lists for the planned Cash Transfer Program (CTP)
Photo: Colin Chaperon, IFRC DHEOPSC

The IFRC aims to undertake 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 at this point of time.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina:**
Branko Leko, Secretary General;
phone: +387 33 263 936, email: secretary.general@rcsbh.org
- **IFRC Country Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina:**
Michele Rezza Sanchez, Country Representative;
phone: +387 33 264 135; email: michele.rezzasanchez@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Europe Zone Office:**
 - Mette Petersen, Head of Country Cluster,
phone:+36 1 888 4515; email: mette.petersen@ifrc.org
 - Alberto Monguzzi, Disaster Management Coordinator;
phone:+36 1 888 4500; email: alberto.monguzzi@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:**
Cristina Estrada, Operations Support;
phone: +41.22.730.4260, email: cristina.estrada@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Global Logistics Service Dubai:**
Sera Coelho, Logistics Mobilization Delegate;
phone: + 971 4 4572993, email: sera.coelho@ifrc.org



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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.