



Dike strengthening, September 2024. Source: PRC

Appeal: MDRPL003	Country: Poland	Hazard: Flood	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 363,485	
Glide Number: FL-2024-000169-AUT	People Affected: 57,000 people	People Targeted: 4,500 people	
Operation Start Date: 26-09-2024	Operation Timeframe: 4 months	Operation End Date: 31-01-2025	DREF Published: 27-09-2024

Targeted Areas: **Dolnoslaskie, Malopolske, Opolskie, Slaskie**

Description of the Event

Date of event

16-09-2024

Poland - Floods

23 September 2024



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Map data sources: GADM, IFRC. Map produced by: IFRC Europe Region Office, Budapest.

Map of areas affected and areas of intervention. Source: IFRC

What happened, where and when?

Since 13 September 2024, heavy rains brought by Storm Boris have caused severe flooding in southwestern Poland, particularly affecting the voivodeships of Dolnośląskie, Opolskie, Śląskie, and Małopolskie. Rivers like the Morawka have overflowed, and some dams have collapsed, leading to widespread flooding.

On 16 September, the Council of Ministers declared a "state of natural disaster" for a period of 30 days in parts of the Lower Silesian, Opole, and Silesian voivodeships. Specifically, the areas covered by this declaration include:

- In the Lower Silesian Voivodeship – the districts of Kamienna Góra, Karkonoski, Kłodzko, Lwówecki, Wałbrzyski and Ząbkowice and cities with the rights of the district of Wałbrzych and Jelenia Góra.
- In the Opolskie Voivodeship – the districts of Głubczyce, Nysa and Prudnik and the commune of Strzeleczy in the district of Krapkowice.
- In the Silesian Voivodeship – the districts of Bielsko-Biała, Cieszyn, Pszczyna and Racibórz and the city with the rights of the Bielsko-Biała district.

The region experienced an extraordinary 400-500 mm of rainfall in just a few days, with Storm Boris delivering a month's worth of precipitation in 24 hours. This overwhelmed local rivers and reservoirs, leading to extensive flooding.

Since the onset of the crisis, the Polish Red Cross (PRC) has been actively involved, deploying teams and resources to the affected areas.





Distribution of food items by PRC volunteers. Source: PRC



PRC provide support for cleaning. Source: PRC

Scope and Scale

As of 19 September 2024, seven people have been confirmed dead due to the flooding. The Prime Minister's Office reported that the disaster has directly affected 57,000 people, with 6,544 residents evacuated as waters continue to rise. Property damage is extensive, with 11,502 residential buildings—both single-family homes and multi-unit structures—either flooded or damaged. Additionally, 6,033 agricultural and commercial buildings, along with 724 public-use structures, including schools, kindergartens, sports facilities, administrative buildings, bridges, and roads, have been damaged or submerged. These numbers are expected to change as the situation evolves and further assessments are carried out.

The most vulnerable groups include older people, children, people living with disabilities, and rural residents with limited access to resources and emergency services. Evacuation is especially challenging for people with limited mobility, such as the elderly and disabled, due to the swift and unpredictable nature of the floods. Children face heightened risks from disruptions to essential services like education, healthcare, and sanitation. Communities near rivers and in low-lying areas remain at greater risk of rapid flooding.

Southern Poland has experienced similar devastating floods in the past, most notably in 1997 and 2010, which caused widespread destruction and significant economic losses. These events exposed the vulnerability of the region's infrastructure, and many communities have struggled to fully recover before being affected again. The long-term impact on livelihoods, particularly in agricultural areas, can be severe, with fields, livestock, and farming equipment often destroyed, deepening the economic and social vulnerabilities of the population.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Opole Voivodeship Office - State of natural disaster	https://www.gov.pl/web/uw-opolski/stan-kleski-zywiolowej---rozporzadzenie-rady-ministrow-z-dnia-16-wrzesnia-2024-r

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population group?	-

Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-
If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:	
-	

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

13-09-2024

Shelter, Housing And Settlements	Rescuers from the PRC Medical Rescue Group from Wrocław have been bringing aid to those affected in Kłodzko and Głucholazy. Humanitarian Aid Groups from Zielona Góra and Opole have deployed to one of the schools in Głucholazy, where, together with local services, they are helping residents by providing hot drinks and meals to those evacuated from the flooded areas. Humanitarian Aid Groups distribute blankets, mattresses, and other essential items to ensure basic comfort and warmth, especially for those who were evacuated.
Livelihoods And Basic Needs	Meals were delivered to the residents of Stronie Śląskie by helicopter within the EU Food Aid Program. At the same time, the PRC ensured the delivery of food packages for people working to strengthen the flood control embankments in Wrocław's Marszowice 1 and Marszowice 2 sections.
Health	In Czechowice-Dziedzice, the PRC launched a first-aid post for those working on the site. The PRC Medical Rescue Group there is providing medical assistance to evacuees and the injured, as well as supporting residents affected by the flood. In all affected areas Rescue Groups are providing first aid. Psychosocial support is provided by Humanitarian Aid Groups.
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Drinking water is being distributed, as well as hygiene kits in affected areas.
Resource Mobilization	On 14 September, the PRC launched a nationwide #NaRatunekPowódź fundraising campaign. As of 19 September 2024, PRC has raised almost 2.5 million Polish zlotys (CHF 580,000). The funds raised will be used to purchase essential in-kind items and equipment and to support the evacuation operations. Priority is given to food packages, drinking water, hygiene packages and dehumidifiers. In addition, several companies and organizations (Żabka, Coca-Cola, T-Mobile, ING Bank Silesia, Amazon, Decathlon, Pepco, Revolut, P&G, Biedronka, Circle K, E. Leclerc, among others) are supporting and coordinating with the PRC for in-kind donations and distribution to the affected communities.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	IFRC, through its Poland Country Cluster Delegation Office, is providing technical support for the response, and it is activated if needed to provide additional assistance.
Participating National Societies	The PRC has received assistance from the German Red Cross in terms of Shelter and Food aid. A truck from the German Red Cross is heading to the Dolnośląski Branch of the PRC in Wrocław. The transport contains essential relief supplies, including blankets,



field beds and hygiene products. However resources from PRC and other partners are not sufficient to cover the needs of all affected communities.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

No support directly provided for this emergency response.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	Minister of Interior and Administration- responsible for coordination of authorities on national level. Management Centers. Government Security Centre (pol. RCB) - coordinates activities at national level, working with other services and institutions. RCB has prepared a special guide for floods. Ministry of Climate and Environment - is responsible for water resources management and environmental protection. National Fire Service - conducts rescue and evacuation operations. Regional Crisis Management Centres - coordinate activities at regional level. Local authorities - take action at local level, including declaring a flood alert.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

There are multiple levels of coordination starting from Ministry of Interior and Administration on the central level. Local levels include local governing bodies and Regional Crisis Management Centres. PRC participates in this coordination mechanism, taking part in local emergency committees.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The heavy flooding caused by Storm Boris has led to widespread damage to homes and infrastructure, leaving many families displaced and in urgent need of temporary shelter and essential relief items. Many homes have been rendered uninhabitable, with affected populations requiring blankets, mattresses, and other essential items to ensure basic comfort and warmth, especially for those in evacuation centres.



Health

The population is experiencing difficulties due to contact with contaminated water. This is particularly dangerous for vulnerable groups such as children, older adults, and those with disabilities. In addition to material needs, the psychological impact of the disaster is significant. Families, especially children and vulnerable individuals, are in urgent need of psychosocial support and first aid services to manage both the immediate health risks and the traumatic experience caused by the disaster.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The affected communities face significant health risks due to poor sanitation and the lack of proper waste management.

Flooding has significantly disrupted sanitation systems, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks. To maintain hygiene standards in temporary accommodations, families require hygiene parcels containing essential items such as soap, sanitary products, and



disinfectants. Personal hygiene is essential in crowded temporary shelters to minimize the spread of infections and maintain public health. Hygiene kits that include soap, disinfectants, toothbrushes, and sanitary pads are critical for those displaced by the floods.

As the floodwaters recede, families will need to clean and sanitize their homes to make them habitable again. Cleaning kits with disinfectants, mops, and buckets are necessary to restore safe living environments.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF Operation, the PRC aims to assist a total of 4,500 people affected by floods in Southern Poland through direct assistance in Shelter, Health and WASH, ensuring their immediate needs are met.

Operation strategy rationale

The overall intervention of PRC in response to the flooding emergency focuses on supporting local authorities in providing life saving support to people affected by this disaster. This strategy is based on rapid onset community needs assessments conducted in collaboration with local services, authorities, and the PRC emergency units (Rescue and Humanitarian Aid Groups), ensuring a coordinated and efficient response aligned with the most urgent needs of the affected populations.

It is worth highlighting that the overall plan of the National Societies involves evacuating people at risk, distributing essential relief items such as shelter kits, hygiene kits, cleaning kits, and providing crucial services, including first aid and psychosocial support. However, not all of this activities are funded by DREF, but also by other funding sources.

Different groups of affected population will be provided with different items/services depending on the needs. The rationale for this approach includes the following key elements:

SHELTER:

Through this line of intervention, at least 3,000 people will be reached.

Communities with damaged houses and in need of temporary shelter will be provided with temporary housing items. Shelter items will be mainly distributed in evacuation centers which have been established by local authorities. It is important to note that while the German Red Cross distribution provides valuable support, additional resources may be needed to fully address the needs of all affected communities in the areas where the PRC is operating.

Based on immediate needs, the items will be provided in one of three forms: a set with a blanket and mattress, a sleeping bag, or a folding bed.

HEALTH:

Through this line of intervention, at least 1,500 people will be reached.

Based on immediate needs assessment by trained Humanitarian Aid and Rescue Groups, assistance will be provided in form of first aid and/or psychosocial support. People who receive first aid may also receive psychosocial support, however some might only be in need of psychosocial support. PSS support will be provided by Humanitarian Aid Groups, other PRC volunteers, and other volunteers who are collaborating with PRC; so there is no need to include funds for this in the DREF.

First aid kits are meant for the responders, they contain specialized equipment. Cost is estimated based on market price.

WASH:

Through this line of intervention, at least 3,000 people will be reached.

The provision of hygiene kits is a priority in conditions across all affected regions where sanitation hazard is especially dire. Cleaning kits will be provided to people whose homes have not been completely destroyed and are suitable for living in after cleaning.

The distribution of hygiene kits (1,200 pieces) is aimed at evacuated communities. Hygiene kits may include: toothbrush, toothpaste, razor



blades, body soap, hair shampoo, wet wipes, sanitary pads, body lotion, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, towels, baby diapers, washing powder among other items.

The distribution of cleaning kits (1,000 pieces) is aimed for families (estimate of 3 people per family as per national statistics). Cleaning kit may include: brooms, buckets, mop, dust-pan with brush, shovel, sponges, floor cloths, bags, gloves, and detergents.

Both kits contents are based on IFRC standards.

It is worth noting that distribution costs have not been budgeted under this DREF Operation because these will be covered with the National Society's own resources.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Communities in the flood-affected areas of the Dolnośląskie, Opolskie, Śląskie, and Małopolskie voivodeships, with a focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children, older adults, and people with disabilities. The target populations will include rural and urban residents directly impacted by the floods, with priority given to those evacuated from their homes, those with damaged or destroyed property, and those experiencing significant livelihood disruptions. Evacuees to other regions will also be assisted by the programme. PRC is involved in assisting in the four voivodeships. The direct assistance in form of items and/or services will be distributed in different areas, targeting different communities according to their immediate needs. Not every member of affected communities will be provided with the same type of support.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Geographic Impact: Residents living in the most severely affected regions within the four voivodeships, particularly those in low-lying areas near rivers and regions prone to landslides, will be prioritized.

Vulnerability - Priority will be given to:

- Households with older family members, young children, or people living with disabilities.
- Single-parent households or those led by women.
- Families living in temporary shelters due to displacement.

Economic Impact: Families who have lost their primary income source, such as those whose agricultural land or businesses have been damaged or destroyed, will be given precedence.

Access to Resources: Communities with limited or no access to clean water, electricity, healthcare, and other basic services due to flood damage.

Total Targeted Population

Women	1,800	Rural	60%
Girls (under 18)	450	Urban	40%
Men	1,800	People with disabilities (estimated)	10%
Boys (under 18)	450		
Total targeted population	4,500		



Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Roads and bridges in affected regions (e.g., Nysa, Stronie Śląskie) may be submerged or damaged, hindering the ability to deliver aid or evacuate residents.	Use of boats and helicopters for evacuations and deliveries; coordination with local authorities to identify safe, alternative routes for ground transport. Ensure all response teams have GPS systems and up-to-date information on road conditions.
Contaminated water sources could increase the risk of waterborne diseases. Additionally, floodwaters may lead to injuries from hidden debris or unstable buildings.	Provide clean water supplies, sanitation facilities, and distribute hygiene kits. Train response teams in first aid and ensure the availability of medical support in operational areas. Issue protective gear (e.g., boots, gloves) to avoid injuries in floodwaters
Continued heavy rainfall may lead to further flooding, slowing response operations and increasing the risk of landslides.	Monitor weather forecasts closely and develop contingency plans for operations to be adjusted or temporarily suspended in hazardous conditions. Secure evacuation shelters in advance in case conditions worsen. If the situation changes the plan will be adjusted.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Health and safety danger as operations are carried out in areas affected by the floods. PRC will ensure all staff and volunteers are equipped. It will also conduct regular health and safety briefings, provide first aid and medical assistance stations in the operational areas, and ensure that equipped teams can access phones and radios for communication.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 207,675

Targeted Persons: 3,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people receiving blankets, mattresses	1,000
Number of people receiving sleeping bags	1,000
Number of people receiving folding beds	1,000

Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of blankets (1,000 pieces), mattresses (1,000 items), sleeping bags (1,000), folding beds (1,000).



Some items will be distributed and others will be used as replenishment. Estimated procurement time is expected to not exceed 8 weeks. Procurement will be done according to PRC procedures which are in compliance with the IFRC rules.



Budget: CHF 10,650
Targeted Persons: 1,500

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people reached with first aid assistance	500
Number of individuals provided with psychosocial support (PSS) to cope with traumatic experience related to the flooding	1,000

Priority Actions

- Procurement of first aid kits (10).
- Deployment of rescue support to field hospitals and provision of First Aid assistance.
- Provision of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support.

People affected by floods that do not require evacuation support or shelter assistance might require psychosocial support or first aid. The need for psychosocial support, by its very nature, may be necessary independently of the material losses incurred.

Some items will be distributed and others will be used as replenishment. Estimated procurement time is expected to not exceed 8 weeks. Procurement will be done according to PRC procedures which are in compliance with the IFRC rules.



Budget: CHF 94,785
Targeted Persons: 3,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people with access to hygiene kits that meet their personal and domestic hygiene needs	1,200
Number of households receiving cleaning kits to restore safe living conditions (3 people per family)	1,000

Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of hygiene kits (1,200 pieces) distributed to evacuated communities.
- Procurement and distribution of cleaning kits (1,000 pieces) for families.

Some items will be distributed and others will be used as replenishment. Estimated procurement time is expected to not exceed 8 weeks. Procurement will be done according to PRC procedures which are in compliance with the IFRC rules.





Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 13,845

Targeted Persons: 1

Indicators

Title	Target
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Priority Actions

- 1X surge personnel: Operations Manager.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 36,530

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Lesson learnt workshop conducted	1
Number of NS staff hired to support the operation	2

Priority Actions

- Hiring of personnel: 1x Coordinator and 1x Logistics.
- Branding of items/vehicles/clothing used by the volunteers during the operation in the field.
- Producing printing materials for PRC's activities, and branding humanitarian aid packages.

About Support Services

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

Both local PRC staff and volunteers are involved in the response. Volunteers involved in the response mainly consist of two groups: members of Rescue and Humanitarian Aid Groups.

- Volunteers from Humanitarian Aid Groups (HAG) focus mainly on creating temporary residence points, providing psychosocial support and organizing the distribution of material aid.
- Rescue Group (RG) has trained rescuers, prepared to operate in difficult conditions (both terrain and weather), equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment and professional rescue equipment. One Medical Rescue Group provides medical aid while volunteers from other Rescue Groups support rescue and evacuation efforts, provide first aid and coordinate rescue operations with local authorities.

Both HAG and RG members work in rotation system, there have been around 80 volunteers involved and the numbers are growing.

Activities of the volunteers and local PRC staff (not funded by this DREF) are coordinated by DREF coordinator. Working closely with local authorities, he identifies needs and dispatches the appropriate support. His role as DREF coordinator will be covered partially by DREF (50%). This role is crucial for the successful implementation of the operation due to the number of people involved and the communities



affected. Coordination prevents miscommunication and reduces the risk of overlapping efforts or missed areas of need.

Due to the increased workload, the PRC is planning to hire an additional member of staff (logistics support officer) to support the early recovery efforts (with logistics and procurement processes). Well-managed logistics ensure cost-effective use of resources, reducing wastage and optimizing delivery routes. This not only saves money but also speeds up response times.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

1x surge operations manager will be deployed to provide support in the implementation of this operation.

The IFRC aims to install a roving Operations coordination function (from internal ranks or through the Rapid Response mechanism) to ensure coherent implementation of all DREFs in the context of the CEE floods 2024. Any respective budget unspent will be used for operational efforts of the respective NS.

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

The PRC will manage all procurement locally, adhering to its national procurement protocols, which were updated in 2023-2024 for emergency operations. These processes will be fully aligned with IFRC procurement guidelines to ensure compliance and transparency.

How will this operation be monitored?

The PRC will implement a robust monitoring system, where the Emergency Committee—a supportive body that includes PRC leadership—provides real-time assistance to field teams from headquarters and delivers up-to-date data on the evolving situation. Local field coordinators will submit daily reports on the number of people assisted, gaps in service delivery, and the overall progress of response efforts. The Emergency Committee will oversee the monitoring and evaluation process, ensuring that the data collected from the field is consistent and aligns with operational objectives. The Emergency Committee will also facilitate coordination between the national headquarters and local branch offices. The operation will remain flexible to adjust to new needs as they arise. Continuous assessments of affected areas will ensure that the distribution of aid and services is responsive to the dynamic situation on the ground. Local feedback will be integral in refining the operation's strategy to meet the evolving needs of affected populations.

The National Society will establish its own systems. If requested, technical support from IFRC will be provided.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Since the first days of the crisis, the PRC has had an Emergency Committee that has been on standby 24/7. PRC together with the heads of department, the Humanitarian Group coordinator, the directors of the local PRC branches and the Director General at the top, take action according to the current needs and the adopted strategy. Communication Department is involved in communication with external partners.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

- Polish Red Cross
Poland Floods

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	313,110
Shelter and Basic Household Items	207,675
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	10,650
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	94,785
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	50,375
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	13,845
National Society Strengthening	36,530
TOTAL BUDGET	363,485

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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