DREF Final Report

North Macedonia Flood 2026

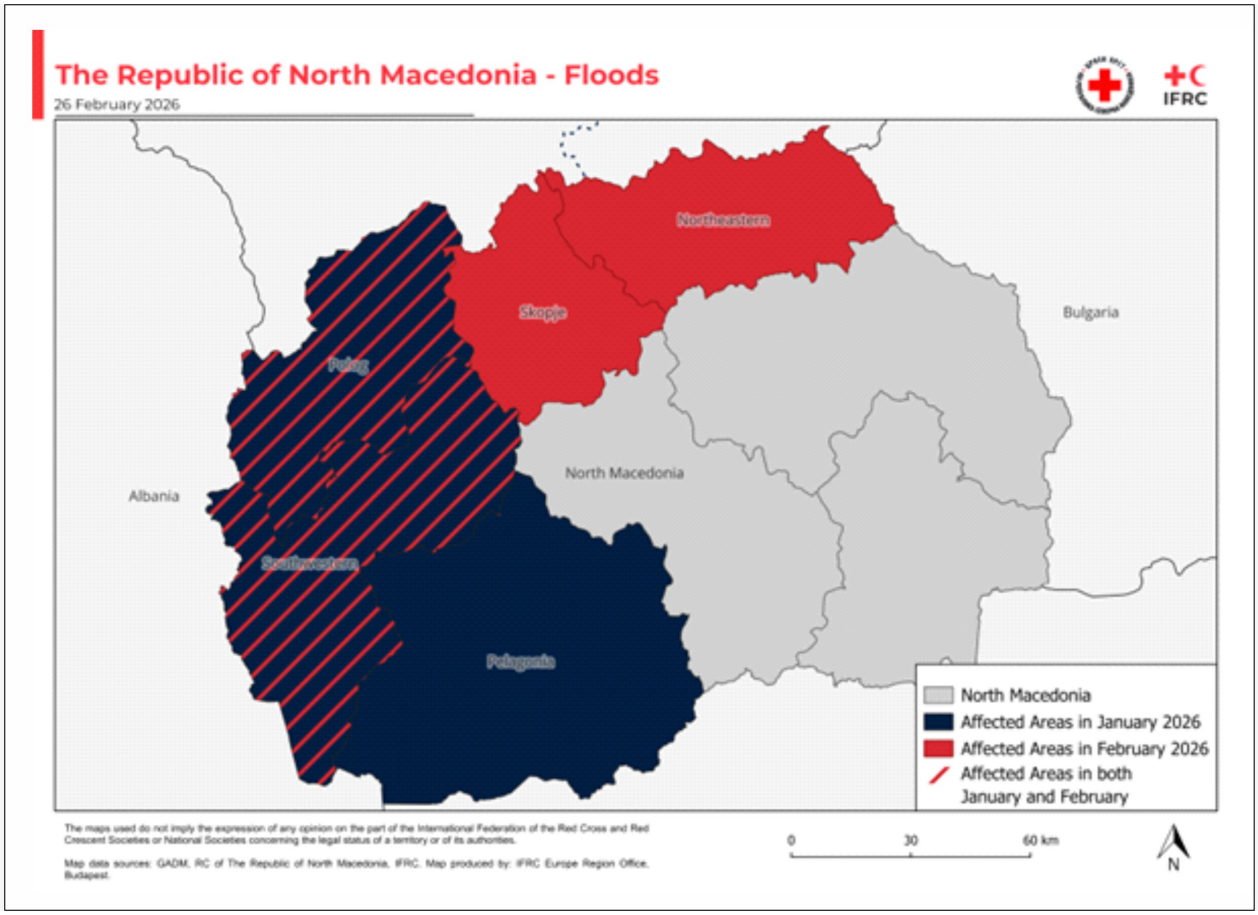


Red Cross of North Macedonia volunteer preparing support in the field.

Appeal: **MDRMK011**	Total DREF Allocation: **CHF 279,679**	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: **Flood**
Glide Number: **FL-2026-000022-MKD**	People Affected: **3,300 people**	People Targeted: **1,900 people**	People Assisted: **1,970 people**
Event Onset: **Sudden**	Operation Start Date: **29-01-2026**	Operational End Date: **31-07-2026**	Total Operating Timeframe: **6 months**

Targeted Regions: **Pelagonia, Polog, Skopje, Southwestern**

Description of the Event



Map of flood-affected municipalities in the Republic of the North Macedonia

Date of event

29-01-2026

What happened, where and when?

During January 2026, North Macedonia was affected by a prolonged cyclonic weather system that brought persistent and intense rainfall across several parts of the country. According to the National Hydro meteorological Service (UHMR), rainfall exceeding 30 l/m² was recorded in the central and eastern parts of the country, accompanied by unstable weather conditions and thunderstorms. The combination of heavy precipitation, saturated ground and snowmelt contributed to the overflow of several rivers and resulted in localized and widespread flooding, particularly in the municipalities of Kičevo and Ohrid.

The flooding affected residential areas, houses, basements, yards, business premises, public spaces and road infrastructure, causing significant disruption to daily life and local mobility. Several neighborhoods and low-lying areas were inundated, while damage to roads and access routes further restricted movement and access to essential services. The impact was particularly significant for households in vulnerable situations, including low-income families, older people, people with disabilities, families with young children and people living in flood-prone or substandard housing. Affected households reported damage to homes and loss of essential household items, while some experienced temporary displacement and increased economic hardship. Small businesses and livelihoods were also affected, reducing the coping capacity of vulnerable households.

Heavy rainfall continued between 2 and 11 January, resulting in sustained high river levels and further flooding in Kičevo and Ohrid, including a flash flood in the Kičevo area. As damage and needs assessments progressed, additional households were identified as having sustained losses to housing, household belongings and livelihoods. The scale and duration of the emergency resulted in humanitarian needs exceeding the initial local response capacity.

On 16 January 2026, local crisis management authorities in Kičevo and Ohrid requested the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia to continue and scale up humanitarian assistance to affected communities. Based on the identified needs and in coordination with the relevant authorities, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia initiated a DREF operation to support the most affected and vulnerable households with emergency humanitarian assistance.

A second period of severe weather occurred between 14 and 16 February 2026, when prolonged and intense rainfall caused the rapid rise and overflow of several rivers, including the Zajashka and Slupčanka rivers. Flooding affected several municipalities, with the most significant impact again reported in Kičevo, as well as in parts of Tetovo, Gostivar, Saraj and surrounding settlements.

In Kičevo, the overflow of the Zajashka River affected residential neighborhoods, streets, basements, yards, business premises, agricultural land and local road infrastructure. Landslides and damaged roads further restricted access and disrupted transport. Vulnerable households were particularly affected, with many experiencing damage to their homes, loss of essential belongings and temporary displacement. More than 270 people were evacuated in Kičevo.

Throughout the emergency, the Red Cross branches, in coordination with municipal authorities, emergency services and the Crisis Management Centre, supported affected communities through evacuation assistance, distribution of humanitarian relief items, provision of drinking water and other immediate response activities. In Kičevo, the Red Cross branch provided assistance to approximately 200 households, including food and hygiene parcels, blankets, sleeping bags and drinking water.

The successive flooding events in January and February, combined with the prolonged rainfall and exposure of vulnerable households, increased humanitarian needs and placed additional pressure on affected communities. The DREF operation therefore focused on addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable affected households and supporting the Red Cross response capacity during the emergency and early recovery period.



Red Cross joint response with other institutions in the field



Red Cross delivering humanitarian assistance



Red Cross team assisting evacuated people in Kichevo



Local government officials visiting the evacuated people in Kichevo

Scope and Scale

The floods primarily affected households living in low-lying and flood-prone areas along riverbanks, drainage channels and other vulnerable locations in Kičevo and Ohrid, as well as in other municipalities affected by the February flooding. The affected areas included urban, peri-urban and rural settlements. Prolonged and intense rainfall, river overflow and flash flooding resulted in water entering homes, basements and yards, while agricultural land, household belongings, businesses and local infrastructure were also damaged.

Across the affected areas, approximately 3,300 people were identified as affected by the January and February flooding events. Based on available resources and the severity of identified needs, the response prioritized households with the most significant damage and the lowest capacity to cope with the consequences of the floods. Particular attention was given to older people, families with young children, people with disabilities, low-income households and families dependent on informal or seasonal livelihoods.

The floods resulted in the loss or damage of essential household items and food stocks, damage to living spaces and livelihoods, and temporary displacement for some households. Prolonged exposure to damp and inadequate living conditions, combined with disrupted water and sanitation infrastructure, increased health and protection risks. Damage to roads, drainage systems and other local infrastructure further restricted mobility and access to essential services, particularly for households with limited resources to repair or replace damaged property.

The humanitarian needs identified during the assessments included emergency household items, food and hygiene assistance, drinking water and support for households whose homes and essential belongings had been damaged. In Kičevo, where the impact was particularly severe, more than 270 people were evacuated, increasing the immediate need for temporary support and essential household items. The Red Cross response therefore focused on assisting the most vulnerable and severely affected households with essential humanitarian assistance and supporting their ability to cope during the emergency and early recovery period.

The affected municipalities have a history of localized flooding during periods of heavy rainfall, particularly in low-lying areas and locations close to rivers and drainage channels. During the January event, continuous rainfall was recorded over the period from 2 to 11 January, contributing to sustained high river levels and flooding in Kičevo and Ohrid, including a flash flood in the Kičevo area. The February event further increased the vulnerability of already affected communities and placed additional pressure on households that had limited time and resources to recover from the earlier flooding.

The successive flooding events demonstrated the increased vulnerability of households with limited financial resources, reduced mobility and inadequate housing conditions. The combination of damage to homes and essential belongings, disruption of livelihoods and infrastructure, and limited household coping capacity reinforced the need for targeted humanitarian assistance and early recovery support. The DREF operation was therefore designed to complement the support provided by local authorities and other responders and to ensure that available assistance reached households facing the greatest humanitarian needs.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. NS social media official page	https://www.facebook.com/reel/1231664865165623

2. NS social media official page	https://www.facebook.com/reel/876959035332721
3. TV21 report	https://mk.tv21.tv/tsrven-krst-na-teren-vo-poplavenite-podrachja-250-litsa-evakuirani-vo-kichevo-megu-niv-61-detsa-materijalna-shteta-imaat-vkupno-362-domakinstva/
4. Skopje 1 news portal	https://skopje1.mk/250-evakuirani-vo-kicevo-megju-niv-i-bebe-od-samo-eden-mesec
5. Libertas news portal	https://libertas.mk/video-evakuaci-a-vo-kichevo-aktivisti-na-crven-krst-iznesuvaat-mazh-niz-nado-denata-voda/

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia has maintained ongoing communication with the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation to Central and South-Eastern Europe (CCD CSEE) in Sarajevo, facilitating information sharing, technical coordination and adherence to IFRC procedures and standards. The CCD CSEE has also provided guidance and support in the planning of the DREF operation.
Participating National Societies	-

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

-

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No

National authorities	The flood response was led by government institutions at the municipal level. The Municipal Crisis Management HQ in Kichevo and Ohrid coordinated emergency operations, mobilized municipal services and ensured continuous inter-institutional cooperation. Civil protection, together with others, supported evacuation, water drainage, infrastructure protection and restoration of essential services. The Government also provided temporary shelter facilities for evacuated people.
UN or other actors	North Macedonia is part of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism; however, as the rainfall and flooding affected only specific municipalities, the Crisis Management Center determined that there was no need to declare a nationwide crisis or activate international or regional mechanisms. The response has therefore been managed through local and national crisis management structures, with no duplication of assistance reported.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

Major coordination mechanisms are in place in North Macedonia. The leading national authority responsible for civil protection and emergency management in the event of natural or man-made disasters is the Crisis Management Centre. It oversees prevention, preparedness, and response activities across the country and coordinates efforts at all levels of government, including municipal, city, and national levels. Each municipality maintains a local coordination structure to ensure that response activities can be carried out efficiently at the most local level possible. In situations where emergencies affect multiple municipalities, coordination is escalated to higher levels, enabling a cohesive and harmonized response across the affected areas.

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia is an active partner within this coordination framework, providing technical and operational support in the assessment of needs, relief delivery, and protection of vulnerable groups. While the Red Cross does not hold a lead or co-lead role in national coordination, it plays a key operational role, particularly in emergency response, evacuation support, and the provision of food, NFIs, WASH, and psychosocial assistance. Coordination has been largely effective, though ongoing assessments continue to identify potential gaps in sector-specific interventions, such as more comprehensive coverage of psychosocial support and WASH in remote or hard-to-reach areas, to ensure all affected populations are reached efficiently.

Needs (Gaps) Identified

Shelter Housing And Settlements

Under the Shelter and Housing component, the operation focused on supporting flood-affected households to maintain or restore safe and dignified living conditions through the provision of essential household items, emergency shelter support and replenishment of emergency preparedness stocks.

Rapid assessments conducted following the floods identified significant needs for bedding, sleeping materials, household items and protective equipment. Many households had lost or damaged essential belongings due to floodwaters, while prolonged moisture and flooding created additional health and protection risks. Particular needs were identified among evacuated households, families with children, older persons, persons with disabilities and households with limited resources to recover independently.

Throughout implementation, assistance was continuously adjusted based on field assessments, verified household needs and operational priorities. Essential household and shelter items were distributed to affected families to address immediate needs and support the restoration of safe living conditions.

In total, 350 households (1,435 people) received shelter-related assistance through the operation. Support included essential household and shelter items such as blankets, mattresses, sleeping bags, field beds, bed linen, protective footwear, rain protection items and drying equipment. The assistance enabled households to replace essential items lost or damaged during the floods, improve sleeping conditions and reduce risks associated with prolonged exposure to damp and damaged living environments.

Particular attention was given to households whose homes had sustained significant damage, families temporarily displaced from their homes and individuals facing heightened vulnerabilities due to age, disability, chronic illness or socio-economic circumstances. The provision of dehumidifiers further supported the drying and recovery of water-damaged homes and contributed to creating safer living

conditions following the disaster.

In addition to direct assistance, emergency shelter stocks utilized during the response were replenished as part of preparedness strengthening efforts. This ensured that the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia maintained adequate contingency capacity to respond rapidly to future flood and weather-related emergencies.

The shelter intervention was implemented in close coordination with local authorities and Red Cross branches in the affected areas. Continuous monitoring and field visits were conducted throughout implementation to ensure assistance remained aligned with evolving needs and reached the most vulnerable households.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Under the Livelihoods and Basic Needs component, the operation focused on supporting flood-affected households in maintaining access to food and meeting immediate basic needs during the emergency and early recovery period.

Assessments conducted following the floods identified damage to household food stocks, disruption of normal food access and increased food insecurity among affected families. Particular needs were identified among households with limited coping capacities, families whose homes had been severely affected by flooding and individuals temporarily displaced from their homes.

In response to these needs, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia provided food assistance through the distribution of food parcels and essential non-perishable food items. Assistance was provided to flood-affected households as well as to evacuated individuals requiring immediate food support during displacement.

Through the DREF operation 320 households (1283 people) received food assistance. In addition, food support was provided to approximately 270 evacuated people through the distribution of canned and other non-perishable food items. Priority was given to households facing the greatest humanitarian needs, including displaced households, families with children, older persons living alone and households with limited economic resources.

The assistance helped affected families maintain access to basic food commodities during a period when many households faced increased recovery-related expenditures and reduced ability to meet their daily needs independently. The intervention contributed to reducing immediate food security concerns and supported household recovery efforts during the emergency and early recovery period.

In addition to direct assistance, emergency food stocks utilized during the response were replenished to restore preparedness capacity and ensure readiness for future emergencies. Replenishment activities included food parcels and canned food supplies, strengthening the National Society's ability to respond rapidly to future flood events and other emergencies requiring immediate food assistance.



Health

Under the Health component, the operation focused on supporting the psychosocial well-being of affected communities and strengthening the resilience and well-being of staff and volunteers involved in the emergency response.

Assessments conducted following the floods identified psychosocial support (PSS) as an important need among affected people who had experienced displacement, loss of property and disruption of daily routines. Children were particularly affected by displacement and changes in their living environments, while adults and other vulnerable groups required support to cope with stress, uncertainty and the consequences of the floods.

As part of the response, a three-day workshop entitled “Mutual Support in Crisis Situations and Self-Care of Red Cross Volunteers and Staff” was organized from 3 to 5 April 2026 in Struga and attended by 21 participants. The workshop focused on practical approaches to stress management, psychosocial well-being and self-care during emergency operations. Participants explored coping mechanisms, developed individual self-care plans and practiced techniques to strengthen personal and peer support capacities. Additional sessions addressed effective communication, team cohesion, self-care protocols and maintaining psychological well-being during prolonged emergency operations.

A Child-Friendly Space (CFS) was established for children affected by the floods, particularly those who had been evacuated and were temporarily displaced from their homes. Through 12 structured group sessions, 32 children were provided with a safe and supportive environment for recreational activities, social interaction and psychosocial support, helping to restore a sense of normalcy and routine during a challenging period.

To support affected communities, 12 community-based group psychosocial support sessions were organized, reaching 103 participants (44.7 per cent men and 55.3 per cent women). The sessions provided a safe space for participants to discuss the emotional impact of the floods, share experiences and strengthen individual and community coping mechanisms. The activities also supported the identification of individuals who may require additional psychosocial support or referral to specialized services.

Recognizing the demanding nature of the emergency response, dedicated psychosocial support activities were also provided for staff and volunteers involved in the operation. A total of 20 staff and volunteers participated in these sessions, which helped strengthen coping capacities, reduce stress and support their well-being during and after the response.

As part of risk communication and community health promotion efforts, the National Society initially printed and distributed 600 information leaflets containing practical recommendations on hygiene, health protection and coping during emergencies. Following the initial distribution, monitoring and community feedback indicated limited demand for printed materials, while direct communication, volunteer outreach and other communication channels proved more effective in reaching affected people. Based on these findings, the National Society decided not to proceed with the printing of the remaining leaflets originally planned under the operation. Instead, key messages continued to be delivered through direct engagement with affected communities and other appropriate communication channels. This adaptive approach ensured efficient use of resources and highlighted the importance of aligning communication methods with community preferences.

Health-related activities implemented through the operation included:

1 Three-Day selfcare and mutual support workshop for emergency responders;
12 Child-Friendly Space group sessions reaching 32 children;
12 Community-based psychosocial support sessions reaching 103 participants;
Dedicated psychosocial support sessions for 20 staff and volunteers involved in the response;
Preparation and distribution of 600 health and hygiene information leaflets.

Overall, the intervention contributed to strengthening psychosocial well-being, resilience and coping capacities among flood-affected communities, particularly children and vulnerable households, while also supporting the mental health and well-being of staff and volunteers engaged in the emergency response. The experience further highlighted the importance of integrating psychosocial support and community-centred communication approaches into flood response operations.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Under the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) component, the operation focused on addressing immediate hygiene and water-related needs among flood-affected households while strengthening the preparedness and response capacity of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia.

Flooding increased hygiene-related needs among affected households, particularly those whose homes, belongings and living environments had been exposed to floodwaters. Hygiene assistance supported households in maintaining safe hygiene practices and reducing health risks associated with contaminated water and inadequate living conditions. Particular attention was given to households with infants and young children through the provision of baby hygiene parcels.

During implementation, delays in customs clearance affected the availability of hygiene parcels provided as an in-kind contribution by the Spanish Red Cross. To prevent interruptions in assistance delivery, the National Society utilized hygiene supplies from its existing emergency stocks while awaiting customs clearance. This ensured continuity of assistance and highlighted the importance of maintaining adequate contingency stocks and accounting for administrative procedures associated with international donations.

In response to identified needs, the operation provided:

900 hygiene parcels;
80 baby hygiene parcels;
bottled drinking water to affected households; and
four water pumps to strengthen operational response capacity.

Assistance was delivered according to household composition and identified needs. Households could receive more than one hygiene parcel, while eligible families with infants additionally received baby hygiene parcels.

A total of 394 households (1,970 people) received WASH-related assistance through the operation. The assistance contributed to

maintaining basic hygiene, reducing public health risks associated with flood-affected living conditions and supporting access to essential hygiene supplies.

In addition, hygiene stocks and 10,000 litres of bottled drinking water used during the emergency response were replenished to restore preparedness capacity and ensure operational readiness for future emergencies. Four water pumps were also procured to enhance the National Society's capacity to support water removal activities during future flood responses.

The operation demonstrated the importance of combining direct household assistance with preparedness investments, ensuring both immediate humanitarian support and strengthened response capacity for future emergencies.

Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Under the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) component, the response focused on strengthening the capacity of Red Cross staff and volunteers to integrate protection, gender and inclusion considerations throughout the emergency response.

During the operation, assistance was prioritized according to identified vulnerabilities, including the needs of older people, children, people with disabilities and socially vulnerable households. The response also highlighted the importance of systematically integrating PGI considerations into assessments, beneficiary identification, distributions, communication and referral mechanisms.
To strengthen these capacities, the Red Cross organized capacity-building activities for staff and volunteers involved in the emergency response. The activities focused on the practical application of PGI principles in emergencies, safeguarding, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), safe and dignified assistance, and protection mainstreaming.

A total of 54 participants took part in two (2) PGI training/workshops, strengthening the capacity of Red Cross teams to provide more inclusive, safe and dignified assistance during future emergencies.

The activities also contributed to strengthening preparedness and ensuring that protection, gender and inclusion considerations are more systematically incorporated into future assessments, planning and implementation of emergency operations.

Education

As part of the DREF operation, the National Society implemented a series of learning and capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening the preparedness and response capacities of staff and volunteers and consolidating learning from the 2026 flood response.

Lessons Learned Workshop was organized to provide staff and volunteers involved in the response with an opportunity to review the implementation of the operation, identify good practices and challenges, and formulate recommendations for future disaster response operations. Participants from the branches involved in the DREF response reviewed key aspects of the operation, including coordination, implementation of activities, logistics, communication, beneficiary support and operational procedures. The workshop resulted in a set of lessons learned and practical recommendations aimed at improving preparedness, coordination and implementation of future operations.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) considerations were integrated throughout the operation. Household selection prioritized individuals and families facing heightened vulnerabilities, including older persons, persons with disabilities, people with chronic illnesses, single-parent households and households with young children.
Assistance was delivered in a manner intended to ensure safe, dignified and equitable access for all affected people. Distribution arrangements considered accessibility requirements, while trained staff and volunteers remained available to provide additional assistance where needed. Beneficiaries received information regarding available assistance and accessible feedback channels. Referral pathways to relevant services were available where additional social or protection-related needs were identified. No protection incidents or safeguarding concerns were reported during implementation.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) training was conducted to strengthen the capacity of staff and volunteers to integrate PGI principles into emergency preparedness and response. The training focused on identifying protection risks and barriers faced by affected people and on ensuring that assistance and response activities are inclusive, safe and responsive to the different needs of women, men, girls, boys, older persons and people with disabilities. Participants were encouraged to apply the learning within their respective branches and operational teams.

Refresher Training on DREF Operations was organized to strengthen participants' understanding of DREF procedures, operational requirements, implementation processes and reporting obligations. The training provided an opportunity to review the DREF

operational cycle, clarify roles and responsibilities, discuss common implementation challenges and reinforce the requirements for timely and accurate narrative and financial reporting.

A total of 103 staff and volunteers participated in the capacity-building activities, including 24 participants in the Lessons Learned Workshop, 54 in the PGI training and 25 in the DREF Refresher Training. Participants represented the National Society and branches involved in disaster preparedness and response activities, providing an opportunity to share experiences between the central level and branches.

The combination of practical learning, reflection on the 2026 flood response and refresher training on DREF procedures helped the National Society to identify areas for improvement in operational planning, coordination, reporting, protection and inclusion. The recommendations and lessons generated through these activities will be incorporated into future disaster preparedness and response planning, as well as into the continued development of the operational capacities of staff, volunteers and branches.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of the operation was to provide timely and targeted humanitarian assistance to households affected by floods in North Macedonia, initially focusing on the most severely affected municipalities of Kičevo and Ohrid and subsequently expanding support to other affected areas, including Tetovo, Gostivar, Saraj and surrounding settlements, based on evolving needs assessments. The operation aimed to address immediate and early recovery needs through the provision of food assistance, shelter and essential household items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support, psychosocial support and, following the extension of the operation, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) for the most vulnerable households, while promoting dignity, choice and recovery.

Operation strategy rationale

The operational strategy was developed based on initial needs assessments, consultations with affected communities and coordination with local authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The assessments identified priority needs related to food assistance, essential household and shelter items, water and hygiene, and psychosocial support.

The response prioritized households that had experienced the most significant impacts from the floods and had limited capacity to cope independently. Particular attention was given to older people, families with children, people with disabilities, low-income households and people who had been evacuated or whose homes had sustained significant damage.

The operation used a multi-sectoral approach combining the direct distribution of relief items, provision of food assistance, WASH support, psychosocial support and capacity-building activities. Relief items were primarily distributed directly to affected households by Red Cross volunteers, ensuring that assistance was delivered in a timely and dignified manner. For households evacuated in Kičevo, assistance was provided at designated temporary accommodation facilities in coordination with municipal authorities. This included food, bedding, hygiene items, drinking water and other essential assistance.

As the emergency evolved, the geographical scope of the response was expanded beyond the initial focus on Kičevo and Ohrid to include other affected areas, particularly Tetovo, Gostivar and the Skopje region, based on identified needs and the availability of resources. The operation remained flexible and was adapted to the changing needs of affected communities and the findings of ongoing assessments.

Food assistance included the provision of hot meals to evacuated people in Kičevo during both flooding events. During the first emergency response, hot meals were provided for seven days, while following the February floods, hot meals were provided for 20 days, three times per day, to people accommodated in temporary facilities. Food parcels and other food assistance were also provided to affected households to support their immediate food security needs during the emergency and early recovery period.

The operation also provided essential shelter and household items, including bedding and sleeping equipment, hygiene supplies, bottled drinking water and other relief items. Water pumps were procured to strengthen the capacity to remove standing water from flood-affected areas. Psychosocial support activities were implemented for affected community members, including children, as well as for Red Cross staff, volunteers and other first responders involved in the response.

The operation incorporated Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) considerations throughout implementation and included capacity-building activities to strengthen the ability of Red Cross teams to deliver safe, dignified and inclusive assistance. Lessons learned activities and refresher training on DREF procedures were conducted to capture operational learning and strengthen preparedness for future

emergencies.

Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) was initially assessed as a potential response modality but could not be implemented during the early phase of the emergency due to beneficiary verification and documentation requirements, as well as the inability to complete a market assessment during the rapid-onset phase of the response.

Following the extension of the operation, the National Society reassessed the feasibility of CVA in coordination with IFRC and relevant local stakeholders. A market assessment was conducted to confirm market functionality, availability of essential goods and the capacity of selected vendors to support the voucher modality. Documentation and beneficiary verification requirements were subsequently reviewed and addressed to enable the safe and accountable delivery of assistance.

As a result, voucher assistance was successfully implemented during the later phase of the operation, targeting the most vulnerable flood-affected households. Vouchers enabled selected households to purchase food and essential non-food items according to their priority needs, providing greater flexibility and choice while supporting their recovery. A total of 150 households, representing approximately 930 people, received voucher assistance. The intervention was implemented in accordance with agreed eligibility, verification, accountability and financial control procedures.

A Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise was conducted following the first round of voucher assistance and prior to the final round of distributions. The PDM provided feedback from participating households on the accessibility and usefulness of the vouchers, the availability of priority items and any challenges experienced during their use. The findings were used to inform subsequent distributions and ensure that assistance remained appropriate to the needs of the targeted households.

The introduction of CVA during the later stage of the operation demonstrated the National Society's ability to adapt response modalities as operational conditions evolved. It also provided valuable practical experience in market assessment, vendor engagement, beneficiary verification, financial controls and accountable CVA implementation for future emergency operations.

The DREF operation was supported by regular coordination and technical oversight from the National Society headquarters. Dedicated staff capacity was maintained throughout the implementation period to support overall coordination, planning, monitoring, reporting, financial management and technical guidance to the branches implementing the operation.

Regular coordination was maintained between headquarters and implementing branches to monitor progress, address operational challenges, provide technical and financial guidance and ensure compliance with DREF requirements. Field monitoring formed an important part of operational oversight, with multidisciplinary HQ teams conducting regular visits to affected branches and communities to verify assistance delivered, support branch teams, identify emerging needs and provide both programme and financial oversight. The Finance Officer participated in monitoring visits and provided guidance on financial documentation, expenditure tracking and compliance with relevant procedures.

The regular HQ presence and field monitoring contributed to strengthened coordination between headquarters and branches, timely identification and resolution of implementation challenges, improved financial and programme oversight, and overall accountability of the DREF operation.

During implementation, a logistical bottleneck affected the timely availability of hygiene parcels. Following discussions with IFRC, it was agreed that hygiene parcels would be received as an in-kind contribution from the Spanish Red Cross instead of being procured locally. However, due to changes in customs procedures and additional administrative requirements, the shipment remained in customs for approximately two months, delaying the availability of the parcels for distribution. To avoid interruptions in assistance, the National Society used hygiene parcels from its existing emergency stocks and continued distributions to affected households while the donated items were awaiting customs clearance. This adaptive approach ensured continuity of assistance despite the delay and demonstrated the importance of maintaining contingency stocks and allowing sufficient time for customs and administrative procedures when planning international in-kind contributions.

Overall, the operational strategy enabled the National Society and its branches to adapt the response to the evolving emergency, prioritize households with the greatest needs and provide assistance through modalities appropriate to the local context. The approach also strengthened coordination between the National Society, branches, municipalities, emergency services and other relevant stakeholders throughout the implementation period.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The operation targeted households and individuals directly affected by the floods who experienced damage to their homes, loss of essential household items, displacement or disruption of their livelihoods and access to basic services.

Within the affected population, priority was given to households with higher levels of vulnerability and limited coping capacity. These included older people, families with children, single-parent households, people with disabilities, low-income households, larger families and people who had been evacuated or whose homes were significantly damaged.

The geographical targeting initially focused on Kičevo and Ohrid and was subsequently expanded to other municipalities affected by the February floods, including Gostivar and Skopje region, based on the findings of assessments and the level of identified needs.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Households were selected based on a combination of the extent of flood-related impact and their socioeconomic vulnerability. The targeting approach aimed to ensure that available assistance reached households that were both directly affected and had limited capacity to recover without external support.

The main selection criteria included:
- Households directly affected by the floods;
- Households that experienced damage to their homes or loss of essential household belongings;
- Households with low income or limited access to resources;
- Households that had been evacuated or temporarily displaced.

Additional vulnerability criteria used to prioritize assistance included:
- Households with a large number of members;
- Single-parent households with children;
- Older people;
- People with disabilities;
- Families with young children;
- Households with limited capacity to meet their basic needs independently.

Based on these criteria, affected households received assistance according to their assessed needs, including food, essential household and shelter items, hygiene items, bottled drinking water and psychosocial support.

In total, 607 households (1,970 people) were reached through the DREF operation (The figure of 607 households reported under the Targeting Strategy section should not be interpreted as the number of unique households reached, as household figures reported across sectors are not additive and include households benefiting from more than one intervention)

Assistance was delivered through multiple sectors, and sector-specific reach figures include overlapping beneficiaries who may have received support through more than one intervention. The targeting and distribution processes were implemented through Red Cross branches in coordination with local authorities and based on available assessment information, with the aim of ensuring transparent, equitable and needs-based assistance.

Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	744	Rural	0%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	296	Urban	100%
Assisted Men	650	People with disabilities (estimated)	5%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	280		
Total Assisted Population	1,970		
Total Targeted Population	1,900		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	Yes

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
Unpredictable or rapidly changing weather conditions.	- Hydro-meteorological information and local conditions were monitored throughout the operation. - - Field activities were adapted or rescheduled when necessary, and staff and volunteers were informed of changing weather and safety conditions. - Coordination with local authorities supported safe access to affected areas.
Flood-related secondary health risks (waterborne diseases).	- Hygiene items and bottled drinking water were distributed to affected households. - Water pumps were procured to support the removal of

	standing water, while hygiene promotion and risk communication were incorporated into the response.
Increased psychosocial distress and protection concerns.	- Psychosocial support activities were provided to affected community members, children, staff, volunteers and first responders. PGI considerations were incorporated into the response, with attention to safe, dignified and inclusive assistance and appropriate referral where required.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The operation was implemented in flood-affected areas without active conflict-related security threats. The main safety concerns were related to the physical environment and the consequences of flooding, including contaminated or stagnant water, debris, mud, damaged roads and infrastructure, unstable structures and changing weather conditions.

Safety measures were integrated into field operations through pre-deployment briefings, use of appropriate personal protective equipment, coordination with local authorities and emergency services, and regular communication between field teams and branch offices. Field activities were adapted when access or environmental conditions presented unacceptable risks to staff, volunteers or affected communities.

Overall, the identified risks were managed through regular monitoring, coordination and adaptation of operational activities. No major security incident affecting the implementation of the DREF operation was reported.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	**Yes**

Implementation

Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 87,229
Targeted Persons: 1,250
Assisted Persons: 1,435
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people who have received blankets	950	1,435
# mattresses replenishment	150	454
# of people who have received sleeping bags	200	206
# of people who have received rubber boots	300	511
# of people who have received bed linen	500	516

# of purchased dehumidifiers	14	14
# of raincoats distributed	150	100
# blankets for replenishment	300	300
# people received matrasses	300	300

Narrative description of achievements

• Under the Shelter, Housing and Settlements component, the Red Cross provided essential shelter and household items to affected families, prioritizing households with significant damage, limited coping capacity and evacuated families. In total 1,435 people received shelter-related assistance, including blankets, mattresses, sleeping bags, field beds, bed linen, rubber boots and dehumidifiers, according to assessed needs and available resources. The assistance enabled affected households to replace essential items lost or damaged during the floods and supported families in maintaining safe and dignified living conditions while homes were being cleaned, dried, repaired or assessed for safe return. Shelter assistance was implemented in coordination with local authorities and Red Cross branches, with prioritization based on the severity of damage and household vulnerability.

Lessons Learnt

• The response confirmed the importance of maintaining adequate pre-positioned stocks of essential shelter items, particularly blankets, mattresses and other household items, to enable a rapid response to affected households. The operation also demonstrated the value of having specialized equipment, such as dehumidifiers, available to support recovery efforts following floods. Needs varied considerably between households, highlighting the importance of conducting rapid assessments and tailoring assistance to specific circumstances. Early coordination with local authorities and branches supported effective identification and prioritization of the most vulnerable households.

Challenges

• The main challenges included variations in the type and quantity of shelter items required by affected households, as well as the need to balance identified needs with available stocks and resources. In some cases, evolving needs and changing weather conditions affected the demand for specific relief items, resulting in lower utilization of some planned items than originally anticipated. Access to affected or evacuated households and changing household circumstances also influenced the timing and prioritization of distributions. Procurement and replenishment of essential shelter stocks required additional time, emphasizing the importance of maintaining sufficient contingency stocks and flexible procurement arrangements for future emergencies.

Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 39,094
Targeted Persons: 680
Assisted Persons: 1,283
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of affected households who have received food parcels	1,000	1,283
# Food parcels (for replenishment)	170	170

Narrative description of achievements

• Under the Livelihoods and Basic Needs component, the Red Cross provided food assistance to affected households and people temporarily displaced by the floods, with priority given to households with the greatest needs and limited coping capacity. Following the expansion of the response to additional affected areas and continued support to evacuated people, a total of 320 households (1,283 people) received food assistance through the DREF operation. Assistance included food packages, canned food and other non-perishable food items, supporting families to maintain access to basic food during the emergency and early recovery period.

Lessons Learnt

• The response demonstrated the importance of having readily available food stocks that can be quickly mobilized following a disaster, particularly for evacuated households and families whose food stocks have been lost or damaged. The experience also highlighted the need to adapt the type and quantity of food assistance to the specific circumstances of affected households, while maintaining flexibility to respond to changing needs during the emergency and early recovery period. Coordination with local Red Cross branches and authorities contributed to more effective identification and prioritization of households requiring assistance.

Challenges

• The main challenges included ensuring that food assistance was appropriately matched to the varying needs and circumstances of affected households, particularly those temporarily displaced from their homes. The food parcel indicator remained linked to the original application configuration and could not be fully aligned with the food assistance delivered, which included food packages, canned food and hot meals provided to affected households and evacuated people. The response also required balancing immediate food assistance with the need to maintain and replenish Red Cross emergency stocks. Procurement, transportation and distribution of food items required coordination and timely logistical arrangements, particularly when responding to households in different locations and to evacuated people with immediate needs.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 42,719
Targeted Persons: 750
Assisted Persons: 930
Targeted Male: 434
Targeted Female: 496

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families receiving vouchers	150	150

Narrative description of achievements

• Following the extension of the operation, the National Society reassessed the feasibility of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in coordination with IFRC and relevant stakeholders. A market assessment confirmed the availability of essential goods and the capacity of selected vendors to support the voucher modality, while beneficiary documentation and verification requirements were addressed. As a result, 150 households, representing 930 people, received voucher assistance, enabling vulnerable flood-affected families to purchase food and essential non-food items according to their priority needs. The selection process prioritized households with higher levels of vulnerability, including larger families with five or more household members, which contributed to the relatively high number of people reached through the assistance. The voucher assistance provided households with greater flexibility and choice while supporting their recovery and helping them address their most pressing needs in a dignified manner.

Lessons Learnt

• The implementation of CVA demonstrated that voucher assistance can be a relevant and flexible modality when markets are functioning and the necessary accountability and verification mechanisms are in place. The experience strengthened the National Society's practical

capacity in market assessment, beneficiary verification, vendor engagement, financial controls and PDM. The PDM exercise (end of July 2026) also demonstrated the importance of collecting beneficiary feedback between distribution rounds, allowing adjustments to be made based on users' experiences and identified needs. The intervention provided valuable practical experience that can support the future integration of CVA into emergency response planning.

Challenges

• The main challenge was the initial difficulty in implementing CVA due to documentation and beneficiary verification requirements. This resulted in the modality being introduced during the later phase of the operation following the extension and additional coordination with IFRC and local stakeholders. Addressing these requirements and conducting the necessary market assessment required additional time before implementation could begin. The experience highlighted the need to assess CVA feasibility and documentation requirements at an early stage of future operations to allow sufficient time for market assessment, vendor selection, beneficiary verification and establishment of appropriate financial and accountability mechanisms.



Health

Budget: CHF 8,925
Targeted Persons: 3,000
Assisted Persons: 3,000
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# Workshops for Psychological First aid (3 days worshop)	20	21
# of affected and indirectly affected people who received printed information materials	3,000	600
# of people attending the debriefing sessions	20	20

Narrative description of achievements

• Under the Health component, the Red Cross focused on strengthening the psychosocial well-being of affected communities, particularly children and people experiencing displacement, while also supporting staff and volunteers involved in the emergency response. A total of 12 Child-Friendly Space sessions were conducted with 32 children, providing a safe and supportive environment during displacement. In addition, 12 group PSS sessions were organized for affected community members, reaching 103 participants (44.7% men and 55.3% women), while 20 staff members and volunteers participated in PSS activities to strengthen their coping mechanisms and psychosocial well-being. A three-day workshop on mutual support, self-care and teamwork in crisis situations was also conducted for 21 Red Cross staff and volunteers. As part of risk communication, 600 hygiene and emergency self-help leaflets were initially printed and distributed to assess community interest and uptake of printed information materials.
•It needs to be noted that the number of people reached under this sector reflects the estimated reach of health promotion and awareness-raising activities conducted during the operation. The figure of 3,000 persons targeted and reached represents the estimated population reached through dissemination of health messages and awareness activities and should not be interpreted as direct assistance beneficiaries. The figure of 600 mentioned in the narrative refers to the number of information leaflets distributed and not to the number of people reached.
• Note: The figure of 21 reported against the indicator # of workshops for PFA represents the number of participants trained/oriented in Psychological First Aid (PFA).

Lessons Learnt

• The response demonstrated the importance of integrating psychosocial support into emergency assistance, particularly for children, displaced people and responders exposed to stressful situations. The Child-Friendly Space provided an effective environment for children to maintain social interaction and structured activities during displacement, while group PSS sessions enabled affected community members to share experiences and strengthen coping mechanisms. The experience also showed the value of providing self-care and peer-support activities for staff and volunteers as part of emergency preparedness and response. Regarding risk communication, the initial distribution of 600 leaflets provided an opportunity to test community preferences before proceeding with the full planned production, demonstrating the value of an adaptive approach to communication activities.

Challenges

• The main challenge was ensuring that psychosocial support reached people experiencing different levels and types of distress, while maintaining an appropriate balance between community-based support and referral for individuals requiring more specialized assistance. Conducting activities with evacuated families and children also required flexibility in scheduling and adapting activities to temporary accommodation arrangements.

• In relation to risk communication, limited interest in printed leaflets was observed following the initial distribution of 600 copies. As a result, the National Society decided not to proceed with printing the originally planned 3,000 leaflets and instead utilized alternative communication channels, including its strong social media network, digital platforms and direct community engagement. These approaches proved more effective in reaching affected communities and enabled the National Society to disseminate key messages to more than 3,000 affected and indirectly affected people. This adaptive decision helped avoid unnecessary paper production, ensured efficient use of resources and better aligned communication activities with community preferences.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 13,299
Targeted Persons: 1,900
Assisted Persons: 1,970
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of affected households who have received hygiene items	1,000	394
# Hygiene items for replenishment	170	170
# water pumps purchased	4	4
# baby hygiene parcel	880	88

Narrative description of achievements

• Under the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) component, the Red Cross provided essential hygiene and water-related assistance to affected households, with particular attention to families with babies and young children and people affected by flood-related contamination. In total, 394 households (1,970 people) received WASH-related assistance through the DREF operation. Assistance included 900 hygiene packages, 80 hygiene baby parcels and 10,000 bottles of bottled drinking water. In addition, four water pumps were procured to strengthen the capacity of Red Cross response teams to remove standing water in affected areas. The assistance contributed to maintaining basic hygiene, reducing health risks associated with flood-affected living conditions and supporting access to safe drinking water.

Lessons Learnt

• The response demonstrated the importance of maintaining sufficient emergency WASH stocks at national and branch level to ensure continuity of assistance when procurement or external deliveries are delayed. The use of existing hygiene stocks enabled the Red Cross to continue distributions while the in-kind contribution from the Spanish Red Cross was awaiting customs clearance. The operation also highlighted the value of strengthening preparedness for flood-related water removal through the availability of appropriate equipment, such as water pumps. Future planning should take into account sufficient lead time for international donations, including customs and administrative procedures.

Challenges

• A significant challenge was the approximately two-month delay in receiving the hygiene parcels provided as an in-kind contribution from the Spanish Red Cross, due to changes in customs procedures and additional administrative requirements. This affected the planned timing of distributions and required the National Society to rely on existing emergency stocks to avoid interruptions in assistance. The response also identified an initial gap in the availability of suitable equipment for removing standing water, which was addressed through the procurement of four water pumps. These challenges highlighted the importance of maintaining contingency stocks and ensuring that logistical and customs requirements are considered when planning externally sourced humanitarian supplies.

• In addition, reporting was affected by limitations related to locked indicators inherited from the original DREF application. As some indicator definitions and target values could not be amended during the final reporting process, a small number of discrepancies appear between indicator values and the actual assistance delivered. For example, the baby hygiene parcel indicator remained fixed at a target of 880 despite the correct planned and achieved figure being 80 parcels. These discrepancies are attributable to system limitations rather than implementation variances.

Financial Report

DREF Operation
Final Report (CHF)

Date from: 23 Jan 2026 to 30 Sep 2026

MDRMK011 - North Macedonia- Floods

Operating timeframe: *Start date: 23-Jan-2026 End date: 31-Jul-2026*

Appeal launch date: *19-Feb-2026*

I. Summary

	Actual (CHF)
Opening Balance	**0**
Funds & Other Income	**279,679**
DREF Response Pillar	279,679
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	
Expenditure	-274,723
Closing Balance	**4,956**

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	87,229	92,988	-5,759
PO02 - Livelihoods	39,094	43,711	-4,617
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	42,719	45,872	-3,153
PO04 - Health	8,925	7,678	1,247
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	13,299	14,308	-1,009
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			
PO07 - Education	8,955	8,981	-26
PO08 - Migration			
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	17,070	0	17,070
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			
Planned Operations Total	**217,291**	**213,539**	**3,753**
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			
EA02 - Secretariat Services	13,900	9,848	4,052
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	48,488	51,336	-2,848
Planned Operations Total	**62,388**	**61,184**	**1,204**
Total	**279,679**	**274,723**	**4,957**

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Prepared on 19-Oct-2026

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[Click here for the complete financial report]

Please explain variances (if any)

• The main variances resulted from the evolving nature of the flood response and the subsequent extension of the operation, which enabled the National Society to adapt activities and assistance modalities based on ongoing assessments and emerging needs. Resources were reallocated to support priority interventions, including shelter assistance, food assistance and the introduction of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) following confirmation of market functionality and feasibility.

• Additional expenditures were incurred in some response sectors due to the scale of needs identified during implementation, while savings were realized in other areas where activities were adapted or implemented more efficiently than initially planned. For example, the planned production of printed information materials was reduced after community feedback indicated limited demand and a preference for alternative communication channels. Operational support and coordination costs were also lower than anticipated in some budget lines.

• Minor positive and negative variances between budgeted and actual expenditures were within normal operational tolerances and reflect routine adjustments made during implementation. Overall, the variances were driven by needs-based decision-making and operational flexibility, ensuring that available resources were directed towards the most urgent priorities of flood-affected households. Despite these adjustments, the operation achieved its intended objectives and successfully supported affected communities throughout the response and early recovery period.

Contact Information

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Click here for reference