

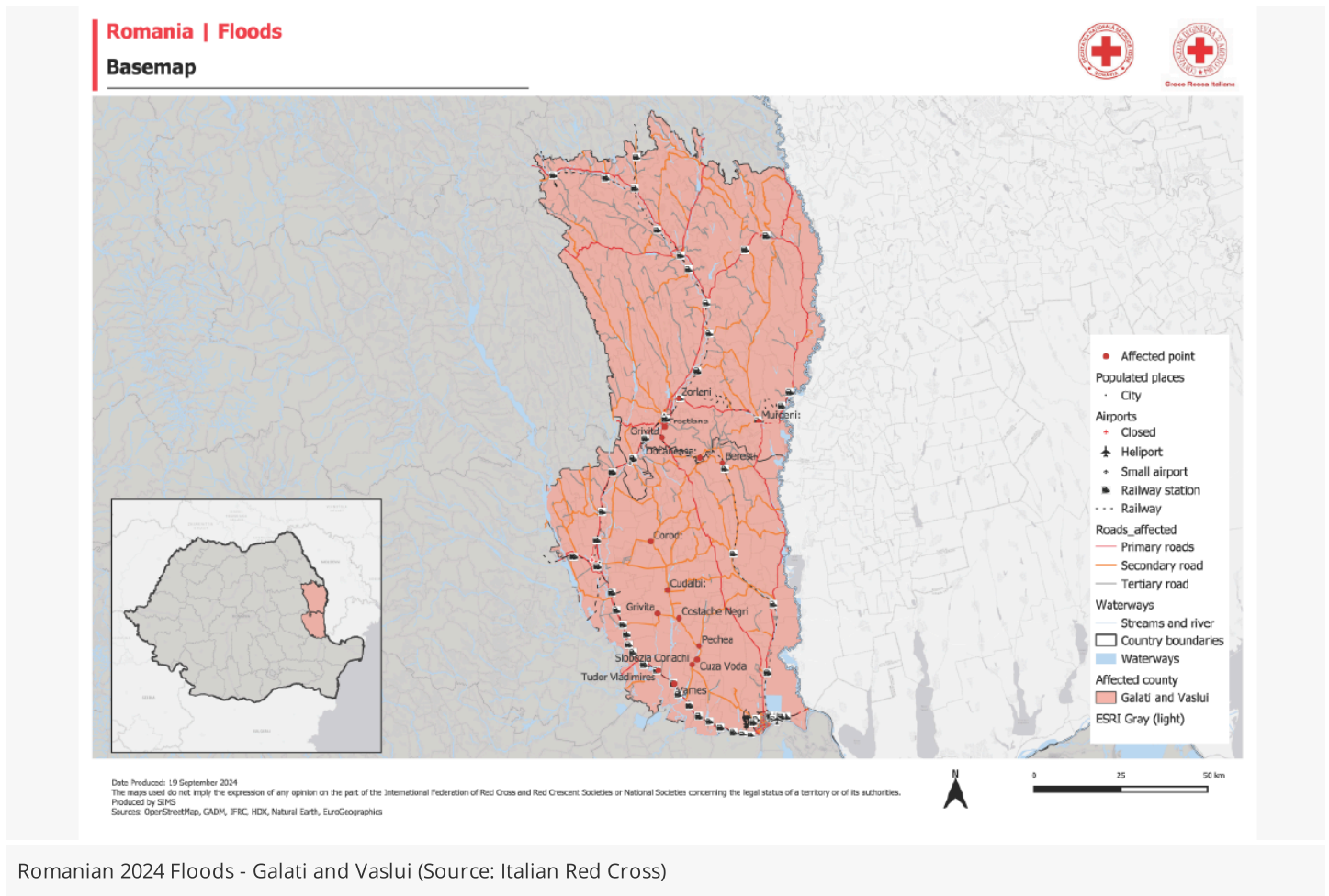


The RoRC Galati branch has been supporting flood affected communities

Appeal: MDRRO006	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 465,192	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: FL-2024-000169-AUT	People Affected: 15,000 people	People Targeted: 5,000 people	People Assisted: 8,820 people
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 30-09-2024	Operational End Date: 31-03-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Targeted Regions: Galati, Vaslui			

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF included the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech Republic, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event



Date of event

14-09-2024

What happened, where and when?

The extensive floods across Central and Eastern Europe, triggered by Storm Boris, have caused widespread devastation in several countries, including Romania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and parts of Austria. In Romania, the storm unleashed torrential rains on 14 September 2024, severely impacting the counties of Galați and Vaslui. Within just 24 hours, the region was inundated with over 150 mm of rain per square meter, resulting in flash floods that swept through multiple areas, causing significant damage to homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods.

Galați suffered the most severe impact, with floodwaters rising to depths of 1.5 to 2 meters in localities such as Cudalbi, Cuza-Vodă, Pechea, Slobozia-Conachi, Tudor Vladimirescu, and Costache Negri. In Vaslui, the southern localities of Zorleni, Grivița, and Trestiana bore the brunt of the disaster.

The floods caused extensive destruction, severely damaging critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, power systems, and schools. More than 6,000 homes were damaged or destroyed across the two counties. Approximately 400 individuals remained displaced and were housed in temporary shelters provided by authorities. Tragically, the disaster claimed seven lives.



The RoRC Galați branch has been supporting flood affected communities



The RoRC Galați branch has been supporting flood affected communities



Wood for burning and heater stove distribution



Wood for burning and heater stove distribution

Scope and Scale

Starting from 14 September 2024, extreme flooding struck Galați and Vaslui counties due to unprecedented rainfall exceeding predictions by far: Vaslui recorded 165 mm of rain, Galați saw 148 mm within 24 hours, compared to the 60-80 mm predicted by the meteorological service, providing the basis for preparations of competent authorities. Factual warning and measures have therefore become effective with a short lead time of 24 hours only.

Communities in low-lying rural areas like Pechea, Costache Negri, and Cuza Vodă were hit hardest. Over 300 kilometres of roads were destroyed or blocked by landslides, isolating entire communities and delaying rescue efforts. Key routes became impassable, and bridges were washed away, further cutting off access. Power grids and water systems were heavily damaged, leaving many without electricity or clean water.

Although Galați had experienced significant flooding in 2013, which affected about 8,000 people and 3,000 households, a flood of this scale was unexpected. Vaslui, meanwhile, had never faced such extensive flooding.

The sheer magnitude of the disaster overwhelmed local preparedness efforts, including newly implemented contingency plans by the Red Cross branches. The extreme nature of the event exceeded the capacity of responders, especially in remote areas.

Although the floodwaters had receded, the aftermath continued to pose significant challenges. In the weeks and months following the disaster, immediate needs for food, essential supplies, and services persisted, underscoring the ongoing vulnerability of affected communities. The restoration of critical infrastructure, including power and water supplies, roads, bridges, and schools, remains a long-term endeavour, expected to take months or even years to complete. Many damaged homes are still uninhabitable, requiring extensive repairs, while the reconstruction of destroyed houses or relocation of affected individuals to safer areas will demand even more time. Additionally, rural residents who lost livestock and crops during the floods face severe economic hardships, as these losses have deprived them of their primary sources of income.

Vulnerable groups, including older people, large families, people living with disabilities, and those who have lost farming livelihoods, are especially at risk during both the response and recovery phases.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations - Measures for affected population	https://igsu.ro/Media/Stire/5138
2. General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations - Latest hidrological effects	https://igsu.ro/Media/Stire/5141
3. National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management report on 14.09.2024	https://www.hidro.ro/bulletin/situatia-hidrologica-pe-rauri-si-dunare-in-data-de-14-09-2024-ora-07-00/

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	Yes
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Romanian Red Cross (RoRC) responded swiftly to the flood emergency by distributing essential food items such as cooking oil, rice, and canned meat through its Galați and Vaslui branches.On 18 September, two trucks carrying humanitarian aid—food, blankets, sleeping bags, and rubber boots—were delivered to support affected communities. <p>Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Clean bottled water and hygiene products (soap, wet wipes, toothpaste) were distributed to ensure access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.The response was supported through emergency branch funds, collaboration with other branches, and donations from private companies. <p>Operational Readiness and Expansion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">RoRC Headquarters implemented a six-month Operational Plan focusing on assisting the most vulnerable while enhancing branch response capabilities.The response initially included expanded winter relief and integrated Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services. Due to the demanding dimension of the operation and evolving needs in the community, as well as a lack of available trained personnel in MHPSS, we could not implement MHPSS services in this intervention. <p>Also, we would like to further elaborate in more detail, as there were a few reasons behind this decision:</p> <p>First, all available volunteers were retasked to Livelihoods and Basic Needs, and Shelter. Most of the trained MHPSS volunteers were in highschool or university and could not be deployed for multiple days. This fact would have major consequences, as providing MHPSS support to beneficiaries with different volunteers would have a detrimental effect.</p> <p>Furthermore, when the need presented we have observed a lack of available trained staff to coordinate volunteers full time, that would have been deployed in the field in this capacity, as this activity would have required special coordination, not general.</p> <p>Another consideration is the fact that the Romanian Red Cross is mandated, by law, for each intervention by the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, and in this matter, although we were not specifically barred, the local authorities were directly mandated to take up this action using the social workes in each municipality, and the Red Cross has never received a request for assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">RoRC is funding First Aid, WASH, and MHPSS components, while additional relief and infrastructure efforts are supported by domestic donors and in-kind contributions. <p>Assessment and Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Branch staff and volunteers conducted ongoing field assessments from the start of the crisis.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint RoRC and IFRC rapid assessment teams were deployed to supplement local efforts. Previously established contingency plans guided branch responses and ensured coordination with national emergency services. <p>Fundraising and Donations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A national fundraising campaign was launched on 14 September. By 31 December, a total of 4,162,044.10 RON (785,959 CHF) was raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,025,590.70 RON (193,672 CHF) from individual donors 3,136,453.40 RON (592,287 CHF) from corporate donors Additional in-kind donations from companies valued at 877,920.00 RON (16,579 CHF) <p>Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EOC, established in March 2024, coordinated national and local Red Cross efforts, liaising with authorities to ensure aligned and efficient flood response. It also centralized information management, supported procurement, and provided field training for staff and volunteers.
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IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC has an established presence in Romania’s capital, primarily due to its involvement in the “Ukraine and Impacted Countries” Operation. The IFRC’s in-country delegates are covering critical areas such as National Society Development (NSD), Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting (PMER), Admin, Finance, MHPSS, and Disaster Management (DM). Romania is also in the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation in Warsaw, covering Romania, Poland, Moldova, the Czech Republic, the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), and from 1 December 2024, Slovakia.</p> <p>The IFRC in-country presence has enabled the Romanian Red Cross to rapidly scale up its support to flood-affected communities. For the emergency, an Operations Coordinator, specializing in disaster management, has been deployed to assist with the rapid assessment, reinforcing the efforts of the Romanian Red Cross and providing vital technical expertise. The IFRC has been integral in coordinating the immediate response, including assessments, resource mobilization, and field operations.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The Swedish Red Cross is present in the country and has offered financial support. French, Italian and British Red Cross are also present in the country and considered their capabilities to contribute to the emergency response.</p> <p>As of this final report, no PNS has ended up providing financial support. However, the EOC, called CNCC, from HQ, which was vital in the operational response and for this DREF application, was established with the financial support and know-how offered by the Italian Red Cross through a previous bilateral collaboration.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

<p>The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is present in country, however, has not been actively involved in the response. The ICRC can offer support with Restoring Family Links (RFL) services as required. No respective needs have been identified during the response.</p> <p>As of this final report, the ICRC has not been involved in the intervention.</p>	
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Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
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<p>National authorities</p>	<p>The national and local authorities mobilized substantial resources in response to the flood disaster. In Galați, local authorities were active from the onset of the emergency, evacuating residents, draining excess water, and deploying over 1,000 firefighters to assist with rescue and recovery efforts. Six temporary camps, each with a capacity of 200 people, were established in Galați, Vaslui, and Iași counties to shelter people displaced by the floods.</p> <p>The Ministry of Internal Affairs, through the Inspectorate of Emergency Situations, has been coordinating with the Ministry of National Defence. Specialized teams were also sent to assess damaged dikes, while neighbouring counties aided in the hardest-hit areas. The State Inspectorate in Constructions deployed experts to assess all affected buildings and houses.</p> <p>National authorities focused on restoring critical infrastructure, setting up shelter capacity, evacuating water, cleaning homes, clearing access routes, recovering vehicles, and removing animal carcasses.</p> <p>Also, immediate relief assistance of EUR 2,000 EUR per household has been approved from national reserves to assist the rehabilitation of affected households.</p> <p>Operational Update of 30 November 2024: The Romanian government received EUR 1.5 billion from the European Union Cohesion Fund to aid in rebuilding infrastructure and homes damaged by severe flooding, as confirmed by the government. Details about the specific projects or timelines for the deployment of these funds have not been made public as of this final report.</p>
<p>UN or other actors</p>	<p>Several non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including Habitat for Humanity, Save the Children, ADRA, and smaller humanitarian NGOs, have been involved in the emergency response. Their contributions have primarily focused on localized support and offering basic assistance to affected communities.</p> <p>Operational Update of 30 November 2024: NGOs such as Save the Children have focused their activities on offering social vouchers to 2,000 children from various counties in Galați, enabling them to purchase clothing and winter equipment. UNICEF has initiated a funding campaign aimed at supporting children in Costache Negri, Galați, by ensuring access to essential goods, safe education, school supplies, and family support.</p>

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

Coordination mechanisms at both local and national levels were activated through the County Emergency Committees, in which the local branches of the RoRC are active members. These committees officially requested the intervention of the RoRC branches and coordinated with local municipalities to identify families in need of assistance.

In accordance with Law 557/2016, the RoRC operates in a secondary, supportive capacity. This legislative framework positions the RoRC to assist and collaborate closely with lead authorities, such as the Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU), which is the primary agency responsible for managing disaster interventions.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The flooding caused by Storm Boris has severely damaged homes and infrastructure, displacing many families and creating an urgent need for essential shelter and winter relief items. Around 6,000 houses have been partially or completely destroyed, leaving them uninhabitable, either temporarily or permanently. Authorities have provided container shelters for those who lost their homes, with 213 people currently living in these temporary accommodations as of 23 September 2024. The remaining displaced individuals are staying with family or friends

Affected populations staying with hosts and those living in their own affected homes require blankets, mattresses, and other essential items to ensure basic comfort and warmth.



Operational Update No. 2 (as of 20 February 2025):

Extreme winter conditions have highlighted the need for additional support for affected communities to ensure their safety and well-being. Providing heating solutions, such as solid fuel stoves and heaters are essential to help families endure the harsh conditions and maintain adequate warmth in their homes.

As for accommodations and shelter, the government has provided shelter and amenities for settlements, as per the attributions according to the emergency intervention law in Romania.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Support for livelihoods and basic needs has been critical, as the affected communities are predominantly agricultural. The floods have destroyed crops and livestock, which many families rely on for their primary source of income. Without the means to replace these losses, affected households face severe financial hardship.

Beyond the immediate loss of income, the destruction of farmland, tools, and equipment further hampers their ability to recover in the long term. Additionally, farmers are facing challenges in preparing for the next planting season due to waterlogged fields and damaged irrigation systems. Livelihood recovery will require the provision of seeds, farming tools, and livestock, along with financial assistance to restore agricultural productivity. In parallel, vocational training and alternative income-generating activities could help diversify income sources, making these communities more resilient to future disasters.

Immediate cash assistance and food security support will also be essential to meet basic needs until families can rebuild their livelihoods. Special attention should be given to vulnerable groups such as small-scale farmers, day labourers, and those already living in poverty, as they are particularly at risk of falling deeper into financial insecurity. Cash assistance was provided by the state and the RoRC provided in-kind assistance as the local markets were shut down and the affected individuals had no way of using cash/vouchers. When the situation became favourable for cash assistance implementation, the RoRC distributed vouchers to affected families for construction materials to enable the rebuilding of their homes. These vouchers were funded through third party fundraising.

We also acknowledged the need for MHPSS services, both for adults and children, taking into account the vulnerable rural community affected and the dimension of losing their livelihoods.

For the most vulnerable groups, measures have been set in place to ensure their needs are met properly, including direct assistance by volunteers, continuous re-evaluation of needs and response to specific needs on a case-to-case basis, such as an electric wheelchair for a disabled elder in Pechea.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The affected communities have been facing significant health risks due to inadequate sanitation and waste management following the floods.

The flooding has severely disrupted sanitation systems, elevating the risk of disease outbreaks. To uphold hygiene standards in temporary accommodations, families need hygiene parcels that include essential items such as soap, sanitary products, and disinfectants. Maintaining personal hygiene is essential in crowded temporary shelters to prevent the spread of infections and protect public health.

As floodwaters recede and debris is cleared, families will begin the process of cleaning and sanitizing their homes to make them liveable again. To support this effort, cleaning supplies like disinfectants, mops, and buckets are necessary for restoring safe living conditions.

In summary, immediate attention to WASH needs is vital to safeguard health and ensure a safe environment as communities begin to recover.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of the DREF operation was to support 5,000 people in need affected by the recent flood disaster, by providing immediate humanitarian aid, through the implementation of actions under shelter, livelihoods, and WASH in the counties of Galați and



Operational Update as of 30 November 2024:

The operation, originally planned for a three-month timeframe, had been extended to six months following an assessment of delays in implementation and the identification of outstanding needs among the targeted 5,000 people. This extension is particularly crucial given the approaching winter period, ensuring that critical support reached those affected in a timely and comprehensive manner.

Operational Update as of 20 February 2025:

The overestimation of certain product prices and warehousing rent has enabled the reallocation of remaining funds. In response to the extreme winter conditions, additional needs for heating solutions have emerged. The Romanian Red Cross has increased the provision of bedding sets, sleeping bags, solid-fuel stoves, and industrial dehumidifiers to support vulnerable flood-affected populations, particularly older adults and individuals living with disabilities who continue to require assistance.

Operation strategy rationale

To address the needs of the targeted population, the Romanian Red Cross has implemented a series of coordinated activities designed to provide immediate relief and support the recovery of communities affected by the floods. Central to this strategy was the engagement of local communities in the recovery process and a commitment to continuous accountability, ensuring that relief efforts were tailored to their specific needs. Some of the key activities included delivering essential aid such as clean drinking water, food, and shelter as well as repairing infrastructure and restoring vital services. It is important to note that not all of these activities are funded through the DREF; some are supported by other funding sources.

This DREF intervention specifically aimed to complement the relief efforts of local authorities, reinforcing the RoRC's auxiliary role and maximizing the implementation capacity of the National Society. Additionally, it provided a solid foundation for scaling up efforts with domestic funding.

The rationale for this approach encompassed several key elements including the distribution of food, and hygiene products to individuals and families who have been evacuated or were without access to basic items, at initial stages. This was followed by providing cleaning products, and subsequently wood-fuelled stoves/heaters alongside firewood to targeted groups, both for cooking and heating in the winter period, as detailed below:

SHELTER:

Through this line of intervention, at least 5,000 people were targeted to be reached.

As winter approached in Romania, the demand for heating increased, leading to higher costs for both wood and other heating resources. The nature of these houses exacerbates energy inefficiency, necessitating more fuel to maintain adequate indoor temperatures. Consequently, the combination of inadequate insulation, heightened heating demands, and rising fuel prices contributed to the overall increase in heating costs.

The shelter intervention integrated the distribution of basic needs items (blankets, rubber boots, bedding, and sleeping bags) and solid fuel stoves/heaters and firewood in preparation of the winter period - which were identified as priority needs in the RoRC / IFRC rapid assessment conducted.

All firewood was purchased from authorized vendors, which have been certified by the authorities regarding the provenance of the wood.

Furthermore, the heating-related items were acquired only after the initial aftermath passed, ensuring that the individual storage areas were adequate.

In kind assistance was prioritized over Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) modalities due to accessibility (no adequate suppliers are situated in the rural areas affected) and the limited NS capacity to implement CVA programming.

LIVELIHOODS:

Through this line of intervention, at least 5,000 people were targeted to be reached.

The livelihoods intervention integrated distribution of durable food items, such as canned fish, canned meat, and non-perishable items.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

Through this line of intervention, at least 2,000 people were targeted to be reached.

The WASH intervention integrated the distribution of hygiene products, such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes, as well as



cleaning materials to support with cleaning households in affected areas.

Logistical efforts included setting up a temporary warehouse and respective staff in Galați and Vaslui for the storage and distribution of aid.

The following items were first distributed from the RoRC stocks: shovels, rubber boots, beddings, blankets, sleeping bags, durable food items, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and detergent. They were replenished from the DREF funds once they were procured.

All tenders were done according with IFRC procedures and were sent to IFRC for approval and validation. Following the approval by IFRC for each of the tenders, contracts were signed with each distributor.

The purchases were initiated after the funds were available.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The total targeted population included 5,000 people.

The operation prioritized groups living in vulnerable situations in the affected villages in the Counties of Galati and Vaslui, including:

- older persons (60+);
- single women;
- households with one or more persons living with disabilities;
- single-parent households; and
- households with three or more children.

The targeted population was selected based on their level of impact from the floods, with a focus on individuals displaced from their homes, those whose properties were severely damaged or destroyed, and people facing significant disruptions to their livelihoods.

Additionally, people experiencing loss of income due to damaged agricultural land or businesses, and those in temporary shelters with limited access to clean water, electricity, or healthcare have been prioritized for assistance.

The disaggregation estimations for the targeted population were made using the demographic distributions in the respective counties.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria prioritized those in the most flood-affected areas, particularly in low-lying regions near the rivers.

Information was collected by the branch during assessments of individual needs, with volunteers actively engaged in the distribution efforts.

Affected population was prioritized based the criteria above.

Information was cross-checked with national ID's and if necessary, through the authorities.

Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	4,586	Rural	100%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	0%
Assisted Men	4,234	People with disabilities (estimated)	10%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	-		
Total Assisted Population	8,820		
Total Targeted Population	5,000		



Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	No
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	No
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	No
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	No

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

Risk	Mitigation action
<p>Injuries of field personnel</p> <p>There was a risk of injury for responding staff and volunteers due to weather-related events and malfunctioning infrastructure (traffic) in the operational areas.</p>	<p>The RoRC took precautionary measures, including monitoring of weather forecast and related early warning, provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), fixed check-ins with field teams, and contingency planning (see section on security and safety for details.)</p> <p>Operational Update No. 2 (as of 20 February 2025): The RoRC has briefed its personnel on the risks present in the area and provided them with PPE from the onset of the disaster and response operation.</p> <p>The risk has not materialized.</p>
<p>Limited Human Resources</p> <p>Insufficient personnel to manage distributions and warehousing could have hindered timely and effective operations.</p>	<p>Allocated adequate financial resources to cover personnel costs, ensuring sufficient human resource was in place to manage logistics and distribution.</p> <p>Operational Update No. 2 (as of 20 February 2025): To address this risk, four additional staff members were hired for the Galați branch. They assisted with warehousing, in-kind distributions, and reporting processes to HQ.</p> <p>The risk has not materialized.</p>
<p>Coordination and Communication Gaps</p> <p>Gaps in communication and coordination with local authorities or communities could have delayed interventions or lead to gaps in service delivery.</p>	<p>Ensured contact information from the authorities are shared, to ensure timely communication.</p> <p>Established clear lines of communication with local stakeholders, including integration in coordination for regular exchange and information sharing, thereby ensuring the coordination of efforts.</p> <p>Operational Update No. 2 (as of 20 February 2025): Both local branches established direct communication channels with local authorities and the EOC, ensuring efficient coordination with affected communities and the HQ.</p> <p>The risk has not materialized.</p>



<p>Logistical Challenges (transportation - warehousing)</p> <p>Existing capacity for storing and transporting essential goods like food, water, and hygiene materials was overtaxed and could have led to delays in aid distribution.</p>	<p>Temporarily increased storage capacity by renting suitable warehouses. Deployed transport vehicles from neighbouring branches or headquarters to compensate for the increase of logistical demand.</p> <p>Operational Update No. 2 (as of 20 February 2025): Currently, the HQ is renting a suitable warehouse in the region to facilitate in-kind distributions. Additionally, the HQ has provided a transport van to the Galați branch, which has actively supported the response efforts starting from September 2024 until end of operation.</p> <p>The risk has not materialized. The neighbouring branches worked with the HQ and affected branch through the EOC to aid in distributions when applicable, but it was not the case specifically for distributions from DREF. Those were handled through the affected branch with support from HQ. In the case of wood for burning and heating stoves, those were distributed through delivery points set up in the affected communities and delivered to those points by the provider.</p>
<p>Location Risk</p> <p>Flooding due to existing or future weather conditions.</p>	<p>All locations for temporary warehouses were selected and have taken into account the risk for flooding and were leased in non-risk areas.</p> <p>Operational Update No. 2 (as of 20 February 2025): The floodwaters have receded, ensuring the safety of all personnel and stakeholders. The warehouse was located in a flood-safe area.</p> <p>The risk has not materialized.</p>
<p>Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:</p> <p>Throughout the emergency response operation, the Romanian Red Cross continued to ensure that all staff members and volunteers are equipped with appropriate PPE. Each delegation was regularly contacted by the Emergency Operations Centre for safety updates and reporting purposes. Emergency response teams were kept informed of areas where the risks of flooding, landslides, or other hazards remained high. Additionally, alternative routes and evacuation plans were developed and shared with responders in a timely manner to minimize risks and enhance safety.</p>	
<p>Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 330,396
Targeted Persons: 5,000
Assisted Persons: 6,037
Targeted Male: 2,898
Targeted Female: 3,139

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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# of households receiving shelter assistance	2,000	2,415
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Narrative description of achievements

We analysed the outstanding needs of the affected population through the local branch and deployed personnel from HQ during their continued distributions. Also, we re-analysed our initial assessment. Based on both facts, the identified needs, for which we needed to reallocate the remaining budget, were 4500 bedding sets, 200 sleeping bags and 100 solid-fuel stoves. The bedding sets and sleeping bags were needed due to very harsh winter conditions, much colder than anticipated, with the cold front estimated to last until mid-to-late March. The extra solid-fuel stoves were for distribution, in order to reach more people in need in Galați county that received wood for heating.

Bedding items—including blankets, sleeping bags, duvets, bed sheets, and pillows—amounted to 6,892 distributed items, benefitting 2,208 households in Galați and 207 households in Vaslui. These provisions offered much-needed comfort and security during a time of significant hardship. The indicator has been modified from "# of people receiving shelter assistance" to "# of households receiving shelter assistance", as we cannot provide the number of individuals, similarly to the other categories of aid. Thus, the number of people targeted changed from 5000 people targeted to 2000 households targeted. The number of assisted persons through this operation was calculated using the number of households assisted and the number of individuals reported through the 2023 census in the affected villages and communes.

CEA has been implemented and sustained thorough the intervention specifically by the branch, ensuring continuous open channels of communication with community leaders, elders and beneficiaries. We assured a high level of involvement from the locals in order to align intervention with the evolving needs and to create an environment of inclusion in decision-making and collaboration with the community.

Lessons Learnt

Adaptive budget reallocation: Flexibility in reallocating budgets based on real-time reassessment of needs proved crucial. This allowed the response team to effectively address emerging priorities, such as providing additional bedding items and stoves due to unexpectedly severe winter conditions.

Importance of local branches engagement: Leveraging local branches with the support of HQ personnel enabled more accurate needs assessments and a tailored response. Their on-the-ground knowledge was crucial in identifying and reaching vulnerable households.

Asset rotation as a cost-effective strategy: The procurement and rotation of dehumidifiers demonstrated an innovative approach to maximizing limited resources while addressing long-term household needs related to water damage.

Improved indicator tracking: Updating the shelter assistance indicator from individuals to households enhanced the accuracy of reporting and better reflected the operational realities of aid distribution.

Challenges

Unpredictable weather conditions: The severity and duration of the winter were underestimated, necessitating additional distributions of cold-weather items. Future planning needed to factor in more conservative weather risk scenarios. We were able to adequately respond to winterization needs through DREF, third party fundraising and existing stocks and we regularly conduct winterization preparations.

Price estimation discrepancies: Initial procurement price estimates were higher than actual costs, resulting in surplus funds. While this allowed for the purchase of additional equipment, more accurate budgeting tools could improve future planning.

Logistical coordination of rotating equipment: Managing the rotation of dehumidifiers among multiple households posed logistical challenges, requiring ongoing coordination to ensure timely and fair access to equipment.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 17,357

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Assisted Persons: 8,410

Targeted Male: 4,037

Targeted Female: 4,373

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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# of households receiving food assistance	1,999	3,364
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Narrative description of achievements

Over the course of the response, the NS distributed a total of 51,145 units of perishable and non-perishable food products to 2,486 households in Galați and 14,364 units to 878 households in Vaslui.

In addition to food, the Galați branch, supported by neighbouring branches and generous donations from local and national partners, distributed 7,182 items tailored to the needs of local communities. These items included glasses, mugs, furniture, new clothes, footwear, school supplies, and other essential goods, directly addressing the diverse challenges faced by households in the region.

Due to the fact that the initial distribution was not made directly to the beneficiaries, but through the town halls of the affected villages, the only distribution lists that were made by the mayor's office specified households, not individuals.

The indicator has been modified from "# of people receiving food assistance" to "# of households receiving food assistance", as we cannot provide the number of individuals, similarly to the other categories of aid. Thus, the number of people targeted changed from 5000 people targeted to 2000 households targeted. The number of assisted persons through this operation was calculated using the number of households assisted and the number of individuals reported through the 2023 census in the affected villages and communes.

CEA has been implemented and sustained thorough the intervention specifically by the branch, ensuring continuous open channels of communication with community leaders, elders and beneficiaries. We assured a high level of involvement from the locals in order to align intervention with the evolving needs and to create an environment of inclusion in decision-making and collaboration with the community.

Lessons Learnt

Community-driven distribution increases reach and relevance: Collaborating with local town halls and leveraging local knowledge helped ensure that aid reached the most affected households efficiently and in line with community priorities.

Effective use of local partnerships: The involvement of neighbouring branches and contributions from both local and national partners significantly increased the volume and variety of distributed aid, demonstrating the value of strong inter-branch and multi-sector partnerships.

Flexible indicator adjustment for accuracy: Adapting the indicator from individuals to households improved the accuracy of reporting and aligned with the data format available from municipal authorities.

Challenges

Inconsistent data from third parties: Relying on town halls for distribution lists limited the ability to collect individual-level data, making it difficult to report exact beneficiary numbers and requiring adjustments to tracking indicators.

Managing and storing diverse donations: Coordinating the storage, sorting, and distribution of a wide range of donated items, required significant logistical planning and adaptability.

Varying needs across locations: The differing needs between households in Galați and Vaslui highlighted the importance of localized needs assessments and adaptable distribution strategies to address specific community contexts effectively.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 42,425

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Assisted Persons: 8,820

Targeted Male: 4,234

Targeted Female: 4,586

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households receiving WASH assistance	2,000	3,528



Narrative description of achievements

Building on the initial effort, the NS significantly expanded its reach and impact over the following period. A total of 43,595 liters of water has been distributed, supporting 2,670 households in Galați and 444 households in Vaslui. Simultaneously, 17,794 hygiene products - including hand soap, towels, toilet paper, shampoo, shower gels, toothpaste, toothbrushes and others – were distributed to 2,027 households in Galați and 495 households in Vaslui. These provisions played a crucial role in meeting the sanitation and hygiene needs of affected communities, especially those that were still living in containers.

Due to the fact that the initial distribution was not made directly to the beneficiaries, but through the town halls of the affected villages, the only distribution lists that were made by the mayor's office specified households, not individuals. As of the end of the operation, the number of families reached in Vaslui is 444 (as further response was not needed, the communities being far less impacted by the flooding compared to the other county) and in Galați is 3,084, as a few more families have been identified. Most families in Galați that received WASH assistance received it during multiple distributions according to their needs at a certain point in the intervention and the most affected and vulnerable of them still benefit from WASH distributions now as they are unable to acquire those resources themselves.

The indicator has been modified from "# of people receiving WASH assistance" to "# of households receiving WASH assistance", as we cannot provide the number of individuals, similarly to the other categories of aid. Thus, the number of people targeted changed from 5000 people targeted to 2000 households targeted. The number of assisted persons through this operation was calculated using the number of households assisted and the number of individuals reported through the 2023 census in the affected villages and communes. CEA has been implemented and sustained thorough the intervention specifically by the branch, ensuring continuous open channels of communication with community leaders, elders and beneficiaries. We assured a high level of involvement from the locals in order to align intervention with the evolving needs and to create an environment of inclusion in decision-making and collaboration with the community.

Lessons Learnt

Expanded reach through continued assessment: Ongoing evaluation and flexibility allowed the identification of additional households in need, enabling the operation to exceed initial WASH assistance targets and address evolving community needs effectively. Targeted, multi-round support for vulnerable households: Providing repeated distributions based on household vulnerability ensured sustained support for those unable to secure hygiene resources independently, enhancing the impact and relevance of the intervention. Support of local authorities facilitated access and coordination: Collaboration with town halls streamlined the distribution process and ensured aid was delivered efficiently to the most affected areas, especially in Galați, where the need was highest. Flexible indicator management enhanced reporting accuracy: Updating the indicator from individuals to households, in line with available data, enabled more realistic planning and clearer communication.

Challenges

Data limitations: As distributions were carried out via municipal authorities, only household-level data was available, preventing accurate tracking of individual beneficiaries and requiring adjustments to program targets and reporting. Uneven impact across regions: The need for WASH assistance varied significantly between counties, with limited intervention required in Vaslui. This regional variation necessitated flexible allocation of resources and tailored planning for each locality. Sustaining hygiene standards in temporary housing: Supporting families living in containers presented unique challenges in maintaining hygiene and sanitation standards, emphasizing the importance of consistent and tailored WASH support in non-traditional housing situations.



Budget: CHF 14,058
Targeted Persons: 1
Assisted Persons: 1
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: 1

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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# of surge personnel deployed to provide support in the operation	1	1
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Narrative description of achievements

The IFRC deployed an Operations Manager from September to October 2024 to support the DREF application process and conduct needs assessments. Since October 2024, an Operations Coordinator (Ops Co) has been leading all IFRC systematic procedures and coordinating with the National Society to ensure the smooth implementation of the DREF operation.

From 18 to 22 November 2024, the Ops Co visited Romania, including a field visit to the Galați branch, one of the most affected areas in The region. Continuous communication and support from the IFRC team including the country office is ongoing. The current Ops Co will continue to support the operation for its entire duration.

Lessons Learnt

Early deployment of personnel strengthened operational foundations: The deployment of an Operations Manager during the initial phase ensured timely support for the DREF application and needs assessments, laying a strong foundation for the overall response.

Consistent field-level coordination enhanced implementation: The presence of an Operations Coordinator throughout the operation, including direct engagement through a field visit to Galați, facilitated responsive decision-making and effective coordination with the National Society.

Collaborative budget revisions improved responsiveness: Joint review and adjustment of the budget between the IFRC and RoRC allowed the operation to remain aligned with evolving needs, demonstrating flexibility and strategic financial management.

Structured learning approach added long-term value: The organization of a Lessons Learned Workshop, facilitated by the NS, contributed to institutional learning and captured valuable insights to strengthen future responses.

MHPSS was not implemented in the response until the end of the DREF implementation period, but has been discussed during the LLW as a service that should be included in future interventions.

Challenges

Coordination across multiple levels required ongoing effort: Maintaining consistent communication between field teams, the National Society, the Country Office, and regional support structures required significant coordination and follow-up to ensure alignment across all levels.



Budget: CHF 60,956
Targeted Persons: 100
Assisted Persons: 113
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers involved in the operation	100	113

Narrative description of achievements

In light of the timeframe extension of the operation until 31 March 2024, the Lessons Learned Workshop was planned to take place in February-March 2025 to gather operational learning to improve future operations. The Lessons Learned Workshop took place between 27 and 28 March. The event gathered 33 participants, including representatives from the affected branches of the Red Cross, headquarter office of the Romanian Red Cross (RRC), International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), volunteers and local authorities.

There was a warehouse rented in Galați county with 4 warehouse personnel that also support the branch in distribution a needed. The RoRC HQ supported and aided the branches with temporary storage for goods before distribution in the central warehouse, to not overcrowd the branches' local storage capacity and to facilitate an easier process of organizing and distribution of goods. As needed, the



RoRC also coordinated with donors for donation transport and other processes as needed and requested by the branch.

The number of volunteers involved was 113. Those volunteers were mostly mobilised by multiple branches. We budgeted for a maximum of 100 volunteers to be issued insurance, taking into account that some volunteers may already have existing insurance. That is why the insurance list consisted of only 87 names. The extra 26 already had insurance.

With the sums left over after procurement due to over-estimation of prices, we plan to acquire 7 industrial grade dehumidifiers to have in the warehouse and to be used for disaster response. These will be distributed on a temporary basis, as long as it is needed for the machine to work, and then given to the next household.

Lessons Learnt

Volunteer mobilization across branches strengthened local response: The engagement of 113 volunteers from multiple branches enhanced the reach and impact of the operation, demonstrating the value of decentralized volunteer networks in emergency response.

Strategic staffing reinforced logistics capacity: Hiring four additional staff in Galați to support warehouse operations and distributions significantly improved logistical efficiency and ensured smoother aid delivery at the local level.

Additional storage improved distribution workflow: Utilizing an additional warehouse with HQ support, streamlined the distribution and improved logistic.

Challenges

Limited initial logistics staffing: The need to hire additional logistics staff mid-operation indicated an initial underestimation of the human resources required for warehouse and distribution tasks in high-demand areas like Galați.

Storage and transportation coordination demands: Coordinating temporary storage and the transport of donations required ongoing collaboration between HQ, branches, and donors—placing pressure on operational coordination mechanisms.

Sustaining staff and volunteer engagement: While volunteer participation was strong, maintaining engagement across months of operations, especially after initial weeks, required continuous coordination and support.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRRO006 - Romania - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 30 Sep 2024 to 31 Mar 2025

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2024/9-2025/7	Operation	MDRRO006
Budget Timeframe	2024/9-2025/3	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 02/Sep/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	465,192
DREF Response Pillar	465,192
Expenditure	-443,637
Closing Balance	21,555

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	320,220	276,900	43,320
PO02 - Livelihoods	16,297	23,711	-7,414
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health			0
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			0
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	68,228	94,785	-26,557
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	404,745	395,396	9,349
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	13,200	11,464	1,736
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	47,247	36,777	10,470
Enabling Approaches Total	60,447	48,240	12,207
Grand Total	465,192	443,637	21,555

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

The changes to the budget were due to the overestimation of warehousing rent and of product prices, which lead to the need to reallocate remaining funds from the Shelter and Wash sections. Product lines which, after procurement, had remaining funds were durable food items, rubber boots, shampoo, toothpaste, detergent, disinfectant, cleaner, wood and blankets. The only product line that went over the proposed budget were the shovels, thus we reallocated a small sum of money to cover the difference between estimated cost and real cost after acquisition.

We analysed the outstanding needs of the affected population through the local branch and deployed personnel from HQ during their



continued distributions. Also, we re-analysed our initial assessment. Based on both facts, the identified needs, for which we needed to reallocate the remaining budget, were 2500 bedding sets, 200 sleeping bags, 100 solid-fuel stoves and 7 industrial dehumidifiers.

The bedding sets and sleeping bags were needed due to very harsh winter conditions, much colder than anticipated, with the cold front estimated to last until mid-to-late March. The extra solid-fuel stoves were for distribution, in order to reach more people in need in Galați county that will receive wood for heating. Industrial dehumidifiers are not for distribution, and will be used in rotation by households whose houses have not dried properly and suffer from long-term water infiltration.

The total budget for the DREF operation was CHF 465,192, of which CHF 443,637 was spent. The remaining balance of CHF 21,555 is returned to the DREF account as per standard IFRC regulations.

For details, please refer to the final financial report annexed to this document as well as the narrative explanation on the achievements, lessons learned, and challenges throughout the operation.

Please note that under the "Implementation" section and the budget disaggregated by sector provides the revised budget approved via the DREF Operational Update No. 2, while the final financial report captures figures based on the budget reallocations which have occurred throughout the implementation since then.



Contact Information

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[Click here for reference](#)

