

# EMERGENCY APPEAL



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## ***POLAND: FLOODS***

**Appeal no:23/2001**  
**August 09, 2001**



***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 2,895,944  
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES  
TO ASSIST 50,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR FIVE MONTHS***

### ***The Situation***

Since 9 July, torrential rain and flooding has affected widespread areas of Poland. The hardest hit has been the south of the country and so far 26 people have died.

The coastal cities of Gdansk and Slupsk were the first affected. In addition to the damage caused by high wind and rain, flood water from the Vistula River and its tributaries tore through some of the most vulnerable sections of these cities. Four thousand people have been affected in Gdansk and 3.200 in Slupsk.

In total, 50,000 people (approx. 14.000 families) have been affected. The worst hit are the following *voivodships* (districts): Świętokrzyskie (Kielce - 20.000 people), Podkarpackie (Rzeszow - 12.000 people) and Małopolskie (Krakow - 6.500 people). Many bridges, sewage systems, water and gas supplies, houses and livelihoods have been destroyed.

## *The Needs*

### *Immediate Needs*

An assessment by the National Society within the first days of the disaster pinpointed a need for food, clothing, blankets, hygiene products, clean drinking water and first aid kits.

CHF 50.000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Local Polish Red Cross (PRC) chapters mobilised more than 200 volunteers in affected areas and distributed relief items, such as food, water, clothing, shoes, blankets and hygiene products.

Local appeals have been made and a national appeal was launched by the PRC for financial support. The first phase of the emergency operation - collection and distribution of relief items, organisation of transport to the regions affected by floods, organisation of search-and-rescue dog teams in Gdansk - was successful and its budget was fully covered. A good in-country response - both in kind and in cash - from public donations, the private sector, foundations and National Societies (Germany and the Netherlands) ensured this. The emergency phase is almost over although some distributions of relief will continue in remote places.

### *Needs assessment*

Following initial needs assessments by the National Society through its local branches, the German Red Cross is currently supporting the PRC in an assessment for the second phase of the operation. This process started on 28 July and finished on 5 August. Reports will be available soon. During the assessment, regular contacts were maintained with the Disaster Preparedness Department in the PRC and information was shared.

### *Anticipated later needs*

The PRC has been, and still is, coordinating efforts with various agencies, including governmental authorities and non-governmental organisations. The local government is concentrating on flood safety measures and infrastructure reconstruction. The National Society, being the principal emergency response agency in the field, anticipates a growing need for household equipment, and coal which is needed to dry flooded houses and prepare for reconstruction.

## *The Proposed Operation*

### **Objectives and Activities planned w**

The objectives are to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable flood-affected population as well as to strengthen the National Society's capacity - through its local branches - to respond effectively to sudden disasters.

The PRC plans to deliver assistance in relief distribution as well as incorporating a disaster response and disaster preparedness component. This decision takes into consideration the scale of the disaster and the fact that local authorities are concentrating on reconstructing infrastructure. The intended operation will last until the end of the year.

### **Relief distributions w**

**Objective 1:** To assess and select the most vulnerable people of the *five voivodship* (districts) most affected (see map enclosed).

Swietokrzyskie (Kielce - 20,000 people)

Podkarpackie (Rzeszow - 12,000 people)

Malopolskie (Krakow - 6,500 people).

Lubelskie (Lublin - 4,000 people)

Pomorskie (Gdansk - 4,000 people, Slupsk - 3,200 people)

Activity 1: to support local RC branches, working closely with affected communities in the assessment, to identify the most vulnerable according to defined selection criteria. Preparation of a beneficiary list will be done by branches.

Activity 2: to provide relief material according to the needs.

**Objective 2:** to provide non-food assistance for up to 4,000 families in the six districts most affected

Activity 1: procurement of coal (two tonnes per family, for 4,000 families) and household equipment for 1,000 families.

Activity 2: one-off distribution of non-food relief items by Red Cross volunteers, according to beneficiary list.

Activity 3: regular monitoring of distributions.

Activity 4: reporting to national headquarters on activities including distribution lists, feedback from beneficiaries, communities and local authorities. Reporting should focus on the impact appraisal by branches in affected areas.

Activity 5: final evaluation of relief operation by the National Society headquarters and branches

**Objective 3:** to provide daily lunches to 1,000 children for 160 days

Activity 1: to organise implementation with local schools

Activity 2: to monitor distribution

Activity 3: to report to management of local branches on impact .

### **Logistics**

**Objective 1:** Procurement of relief goods. All items should be available on the domestic market. However, the Regional Logistic Unit for Central Europe will be kept informed on procurement and will support the PRC if necessary. PRC headquarters staff will be briefed on how to follow Federation procurement policies.

**Objective 2:** distribution will be organised by local branches, supported by volunteers under the supervision of RC staff

**Objective 3:** to provide transport for volunteers and staff in affected regions

### **National Society Capacity Building**

**Objective:** Strengthen the disaster relief and preparedness capacity in headquarters and local branches in the affected regions.

PRC branches have effectively responded to the emergency during the first phase. But this capacity should be reinforced to deal with annual flooding. This will be addressed through two workshops in headquarters and the branches. These workshops will be supported and organised through the Regional Delegation in Budapest (Regional DR/DP Delegate)

Activity 1: to train management as well as volunteers of branches in affected areas to handle administration and management tools needed during the implementation phase:

- improved planning through better damage and needs assessment;
- promotion of the National Society image among communities - public awareness, use of the National Society's emblem on relief goods distributed, and communication strategy;
- monitoring and reporting, better flow of information from local branches to headquarters
- Regular and structured reporting to PRC management.

Activity 2: to elaborate a contingency plan - in line with the National disaster preparedness plan as well as local emergency plan - to enable affected branches to have a clear strategy for future disasters.

Activity 3: to repair the Red Cross premises in Slupsk. During the floods, the roof of the local branch office was ruined. Work continued at temporary premises.

### **Coordination**

At the beginning of the disaster, coordination was through the local government committee. Rescues were supervised by the fires brigades, with the cooperation of the Army. Other coordination meetings were organised by

local authorities, with NGOs in the districts. The key players in this disaster response were local authorities, the Red Cross, Caritas and the Polish humanitarian NGOs.

Considering the scale of the disaster and the needs for a coherent approach, the Ministry of Interior has offered an office for twice-weekly meetings between NGOs and government representatives. The PRC is part of this coordination effort.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The PRC disaster preparedness department is responsible for implementation of the operation through regular monitoring, reports and lesson learning. Ongoing assessment on the impact on beneficiaries and National Society capacity will also be made.

The regional DP Delegate will provide support to the National Society through visits to headquarters and local branches.

An evaluation will be carried out soon after the end of the operation, with the support of the Regional Delegation and other regional resources.

### **Capacity of the National Society**

The PRC has a very good image in Poland and is considered by the Government as an experienced and reliable partner and a key player in disaster response.

However, the PRC Board is currently going through a significant change process, supported by the Central Europe Regional Delegation as well as other National Societies (German, Netherlands and American RC). It has 47 districts and 310 local branches, supported by many volunteers. Local branch capacity varies. In the affected five districts, disaster response has been good.

Logistically, the PRC has some warehouses and small stores, and has centres to serve as temporary accommodation.

The disaster preparedness department is currently poorly staffed - by one person - and will need additional support. Both the regional delegation and participating National Societies have offered assistance.

More than 200 volunteers were mobilised for the first phase, but this number could be doubled. Assistance was provided from all over the country in goods collection, administration, distributions, and monitoring. Volunteers are supervised by branch staff.

Previous experiences from floods in 1997 were used during this operation and previous mistakes were avoided.

### **Present Capacity of the Federation w**

The Federation Regional Delegation for Central Europe, in Budapest, consists of 12 delegates.. The regional disaster preparedness delegate will be supporting the PRC to implement the operation, as will other delegates in organisational development, communications and information, logistics, planning and reporting, and finance.

## ***Budget summary***

See Annex 1 for details.

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*All International Federation Assistance Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first operations update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and the second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation.*

*This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support and these programmes are outlined on the Federation website.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

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Director  
Disaster Management and Coordination

Didier J. Cherpitel  
Secretary General

	ANNEX 1
<b><u>PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARY</u></b>	APPEAL No. 23/200
<b>POLAND: FLOODS</b>	
TYPE	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	
Constructions (repairs of RC local branches premises)	15'000
Shelter (sleeping bags, bed linen, blankets)	295'400
Coal (4.000 families x 2 tons per families)	1'250'000
Clothing & textiles ( rubber coats)	221'600
Food items	41'000
Food for school canteens (1 meal x 1.000 children x 160 days)	230'000
Basic drugs	36'000
Hygiene parcels and products (disinfectants)	396'600
Other relief supplies	11'900
<b>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</b>	<b>2'497'500</b>
<b>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</b>	
Computers/Telecom equipment (including digital cameras)	15'000
Office furniture & equipment for local branches	5'000
<b>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</b>	
Programme management	124'405
Technical support	37'240
Professional services	41'299
<b>TRANSPORT STORAGE &amp; VEHICLE COSTS</b>	<b>60'000</b>
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	
Regional Delegation staff	8'000
National staff	20'000
Training/DP workshops	50'000
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; GENERAL SERVICES</b>	
Travel & related expenses	12'500
Information expenses (website/visibility)	5'000
Administrative & general expenses	20'000
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</b>	<b>398'444</b>
<b>TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES</b>	<b>2'895'944</b>
<b>LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)</b>	<b>1'601'603</b>
<b>NET REQUEST</b>	<b>1'294'341</b>

<b>POLAND: FLOODS</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 23/2001</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>			09.08.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>2'895'944</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 55.3%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
<u>First Emergency Phase</u>						
Contributions received at Polish RC from public donations in Poland				400'000	July 2001	
Contributions received from private sector/foundations in Poland				100'000	July 2001	
Western Union Foundation				25'000		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH						
				525'000	CHF	18.1%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<u>First Emergency Phase</u>						
Polish supermarket chain				41'000	early july	Donations in kind to Polish RC
Collection of items				280'000	early july	
sleeping bags, bedding)						
Hygienic products				140'000	early july	
German RC						
Blankets				60'000	28.07.2001	Donations in kind to Polish RC
Rubber boots				63'406	28.07.2001	
Sleeping bags/Bed linnen				35'315	28.07.2001	
Medecines/Disinfectants				69'248	28.07.2001	
Garbish bags				5'434	28.07.2001	
Netherlands RC						
Hygiene parcels				193'000	03.08.2001	Donations in kind to Polish RC
Rubber boots				53'700	03.08.2001	
Garbage bags				6'400	03.08.2001	
Gloves/toilet paper/cleaning product				15'200	03.08.2001	
Transport of relief goods				15'900	03.08.2001	
Norwegian RC						
Various items				98'000	03.08.2001	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES						
				1'076'603	CHF	37.2%