

DREF Bulletin



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

SERBIA/KOSOVO: FLOODS

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 186 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 123,597 (USD 106,641 or EUR 73,877) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over four months, and will be completed by 31 March, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 June, 2008). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In Pristina: Gunther Pratz, Head of Kosovo Office, Pristina, phone: +381 38 228 400, fax: +381 38 228 599, email: gunther.pratz@ifrc.org*
- *In Budapest: Slobodanka Curic, Regional Disaster Management Coordinator, phone: +36 20 3440122, fax: +36 1 248 33 22, email: slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org*
- *In Budapest: Leon Prop, Deputy Head of Europe Zone, phone: + 36 1 248 3300, fax: + 36 1 248 3322, email: leon.prop@ifrc.org*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background and current situation

Heavy rains and snow over two days have caused floods in many villages and cities throughout Kosovo (Pristina/Prishtina, Pec/Peja, Podujevo/Podujeve, Kosovo Polje/Fushe Kosove, Vucitrn/Vushtrri, Srbica/Skenderaj, Lipljan/Lipjan, Kamenica/Kamenice, Obilic/Obiliq with the villages around). Increased water levels in the rivers Terstena, Drini I Bardhe, Sitnica, Klina have broken the banks and have flooded the surrounding areas. Houses and personal belongings, agricultural lands and equipment were damaged. Some villages in the rural and poorer part of the province have been left inaccessible. An estimated 714 families (approximately 3,500 people) are affected by the flooding, many of which had to be evacuated from their houses and sheltered in neighbouring villages (with relatives, neighbours or friends).



A local resident trying to access his house in Vucitrn/Vushtrri
Source: Red Cross of Kosova / Kumrije Sadiku

These floods are affecting one of the poorest societies in Europe and even the Western Balkans: 44 per cent of Kosovo's population lives in poverty and a further 14 per cent in extreme poverty¹. The vulnerability of the population in Kosovo has become even more critical in recent times due to an increase in prices for basic commodities such as bread and cereals (prices increased by 32 per cent), cooking oils and fat (prices increased by 25 per cent), and vegetables (prices increased by 25 per cent).

The current floods have not only affected the rural areas where the majority of vulnerable people in Kosovo reside, but also the cities and major towns where the population is not used to such problems and thus have big difficulties in coping with such situations. A particular problem in the urban areas has been the overflowing of the sewage system with raw sewage water running in the streets. As a result, it is currently not recommended to drink tap water in a number of the

affected areas.

The authorities have reported that due to the flooding there will be even more shortages of water and the supply of electricity will be affected. In some villages the schools were closed until further notice.

There is a concern that this flooding will have a further deteriorating effect on the socio-economic situation of the province as the majority of the affected people already belong to the poorest groups of the province that are not in a position to cope with the situation on their own.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

The Red Cross organizations in Kosovo have immediately responded by distributing blankets and mattresses to some of the affected population. However, due to limited emergency buffer stocks they were only able to assist a limited number of the affected people. A detailed assessment of the situation at municipal level was conducted together with the local emergency departments. In most cases the Red Cross was assisting the local emergency departments with transport.

The assessment has been hampered by the difficulties to access all of the affected areas due to impassable roads and landslides. However, all efforts are made to gather the necessary information in order to initiate an appropriate response. The



Police assisting the local people to evacuate from their flooded houses in Orlovic/Shkabaj - a place near to Pristina
Source: www.kohavision.net

¹ UNDP: Second Millennium Development Goals Report for Kosovo, 2007, page 7.

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Federation Office in Kosovo has been in constant contact with the local Red Cross organizations.

The Needs

In response to the floods, the following items are required:

Item	No. of Units
Blankets	3,500
Mattresses	1,500
Hygiene kits (standard family hygiene parcel)	714
Drinking water (bottled, pack of 9 litres)	2,856
Food (family food parcel)	714

Even though the families will be returning to their homes once the water recedes, many of their belongings like blankets, mattresses, food and non-food items are destroyed or washed away. The planned assistance will only be providing them with basic items needed to get through the coming weeks. In many villages in the rural areas people use water for drinking from open wells. Due to the floods, the wells have been contaminated and thus the people cannot use the water for household needs. Therefore a small amount of water has to be provided for them immediately.

Due to the ongoing lack of access in some areas, there are still a number of families expected to be reported as affected. Therefore, a number of relief items will be used to assist these families and also some to replenish part of the emergency relief buffer stocks used by the local Red Cross organizations in their initial response to the situation.

Federation Coordination

The Federation and both Red Cross organizations in Kosovo will closely cooperate in this emergency assistance. The operation will be coordinated by the branch secretaries of both Red Cross organizations in their areas of responsibility. Red Cross volunteers will be responsible for delivering the flood emergency assistance. All activities will be carried out in coordination with the local emergency departments and social welfare authorities.

The proposed operation

Objectives and Activities

Goal: Providing emergency flood assistance to the affected population in Kosovo.

Objective: Distributing basic food and non-food items to 714 families (approximately 3,500 persons) during a four-month period.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Preparation of beneficiary lists;
- Procurement of emergency items in Kosovo;
- Distribution of emergency items by the Red Cross branches and their volunteers according to the prepared beneficiary lists;
- Coordination with local emergency departments and social welfare authorities;
- Monitoring and reporting.

Capacity of the local Red Cross organizations

The capacity of both Red Cross organizations in terms of human resources is quite high. However their financial and material capacity is very limited. The local Red Cross organizations are the only humanitarian organizations

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that provide limited but regular assistance to the most vulnerable in Kosovo due to the extremely difficult socio-economic situation in Kosovo.

Due to the flow of the situation during the last decade, the main activities of both Red Cross organizations in Kosovo has been the distribution of relief items to the most vulnerable. Therefore, sufficient experience in handling such a scale of disaster exists.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation office is currently going through some changes in its structure in Kosovo. However, the current structure and capacity of the Federation in Kosovo is able to provide the necessary support to the local Red Cross organizations as required.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Federation and both Red Cross organizations will continuously monitor the needs of the beneficiaries and the emergency assistance provided in coordination with the local emergency departments and social welfare authorities. All assistance items provided to the beneficiaries will be logged in signed recipient lists.

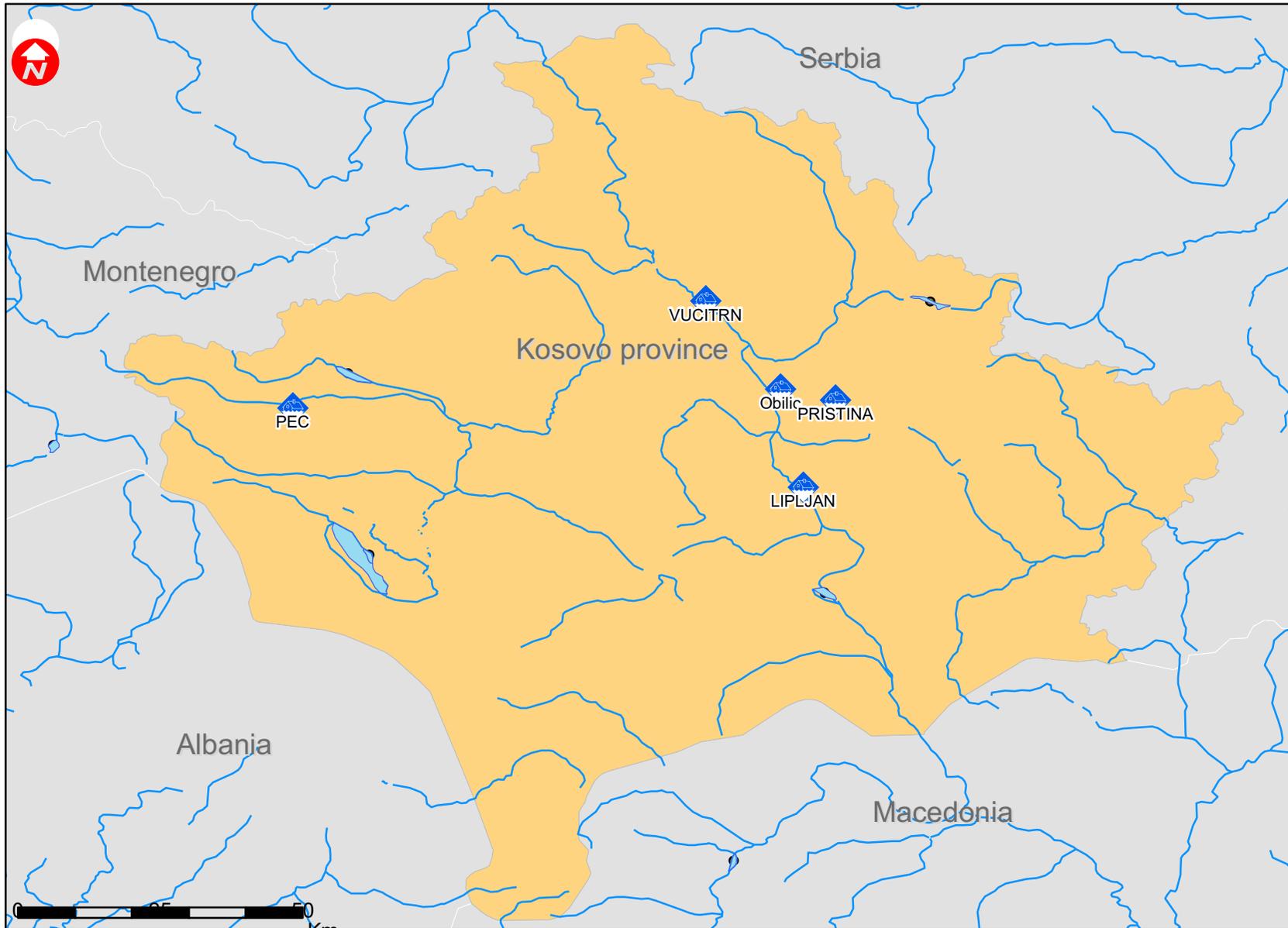
Budget Summary

Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	TOTAL
Supplies				
Blankets	3,500	Unit	11.00	38,500.00
Mattresses	1,500	Unit	20.04	30,060.00
Food parcels	714	Unit	25.05	17,885.70
Hygiene kits	714	Unit	10.04	7,167.13
Drinking water	2,856	Unit	2.34	6,683.04
Sub-Total				100,295.87
Transport				
Vehicle Fuel, Maintenance, Spare Parts				3,574.50
Geneva Costs				
Program Management Support (6.5%)				8,033.82
Personnel				
Nat/NS Staff-Local Staff Salary Support				8,587.51
General / Admin				
Telephone, Internet, Visibility, etc				3,105.57
TOTAL CHF				123,597.27

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Serbia/Kosovo: Floods



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Flooded cities