

This report is based on a Situation Report issued by the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Tirana. It covers the period from 8 until 10 January 2010.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The number of persons evacuated from the flood affected regions has risen to 4,025.
- More than 1,200 rescue workers are in the affected areas.
- The EU-MIC assessment & coordination team has arrived, and will undertake an assessment mission to Shkodra on Sunday 10 January 2010.
- A number of countries are providing in-kind assistance; UN is providing an emergency cash grant.



Flooded outskirts of Shkodra
(both photos by UNDSS)



View from Dajci and Ana Malit communes

II. Situation Overview

1. The number of persons evacuated from the flood-affected regions in north-west Albania has risen from 3,752 to 4,025 persons (1,010 families). The number of houses flooded (in whole or in part) stands at 2,205. A total of 10,270 ha of farmland is flooded and 9,830 livestock are at risk. Because of serious damages to the water supply system, many in the flooded communities don't have access to drinking water. There are damages to agricultural and transport infrastructure, making the area around Shkodra only accessible by small boats.
2. Most of the evacuees are staying with relatives, and some are staying in hotels and student dormitories made available for this purpose. Temporary shelter for about 4,000 persons is still available close to the affected areas. Some refuse to be evacuated.
3. According to an Italian dam stability expert, the three hydro-power plant dams in the Drini River that held high water levels because of the snowmelt and the rains, are stable and in good condition.
4. The Government of Albania stated that another 16,000 – 20,000 persons (4,000 – 5,000 families) may still need to be evacuated. More bad weather is expected in the days ahead.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

National response

5. Armed forces, state police, fire-fighters and personnel from the Electric Energetic Corporate, the General Directorate of Roads and the Ministry of Health – more than 1,200 persons in total – are on the ground. These rescue workers are evacuating the affected population and their animals, providing food and health support, safeguarding property, and protecting embankments in order to minimize further flooding.

International response

6. A team of experts from the European Union Monitoring & Information Centre (EU-MIC), joined by one member from the United Nations Disaster Assessment & Coordination (UNDAC) arrived as scheduled in the night of 8 to 9 January 2010. It met with Albanian high officials involved in the response and visited the emergency operation centre in Tirana. It was also in touch with the dam stability expert (see below). The EU-MIC team will undertake a first assessment to Shkodra on Sunday 10 January 2010.

7. A number of countries dispatched in kind assistance. Slovenia provided 13 mobile power generators; Austria 8 mobile power generators, 5 water pumps; Italy 2 military transport helicopters (still in Italy due to bad weather); France 11 water pumps; and Greece 29 fire fighters, 4 vehicles, 2 rescue boats, 22 water pumps.

8. The UN – OCHA; UNICEF and UNDP – will support affected families with the provision of emergency cash for the purchase of food and other basic (hygiene) items.

IV. Coordination

9. Overall coordination remains in the hands of the Minister of Interior, who is heading the Inter-Ministerial Emergency Committee. The General Directorate for Civil Emergencies of the Minister of Interior is in charge of coordinating the relief response. Two emergency operation centers have been established: one in the capital Tirana and one in Shkodra.

10. Another UNDAC member will be deployed to support the authorities in coordinating the international response. Estimated arrival is on Tuesday 12 January 2010.

V. Contact

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