

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

MOLDOVA: FLOODS

ME no.05ME053

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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 over 181 countries.

In Brief

Minor Emergency No.05ME053; Final Report; Period covered by the report: 20 August – 20 December 2005

DREF Bulletin history:

- Launched on 9 September 2005 for 1 month to assist 3,000 beneficiaries
- Plan of action revised and time frame extended until 31 December 2005
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000 (USD 38,850 OR EUR 32,041)

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Background and Summary

This final report on the Moldova floods relief operation covers activities taking place between 20 August 2005 and 20 December 2005. The operation was extended from a closing date of 30 September 2005 to 31 December 2005 in order to ensure the completion of scheduled activities.

As a result of heavy rains (up to 65 mm/m²), accompanied by severe storm winds and regional hail that hit Moldova on 18-20 August 2005, 2 municipalities (Chisinau and Balti) and 15 districts in the north and central parts of Moldova – with a population of over one million people – have been affected. More than 170 settlements

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(which constitute 23% of the total number of settlements in the affected 15 districts) are located in the disaster-stricken area.

A total of 102 families in Chisinau and approximately 300 families in 38 villages were evacuated by the government. The districts of Edinet, Criuleni, Briceni, Nisporeni, Riscani and the capital of Chisinau were hardest hit. According to Emergency Department reports, the total number of directly affected people was over 6,500 and the estimate of damages and losses due to the disaster is approximately 95,605,000 Moldovan Lei (EUR 6,310,560.00).



Vital agricultural lands, like in the village of Drepcauti of Briceni district in north Moldova, were flooded for over a week

Rivers, water reservoirs, and several small lakes located near the villages overflowed, with the water level surpassing retaining walls by more than 24 metres in some places. The flooding caused severe damage and completely ruined public and private buildings (over 1,200 in the most affected 38 villages), destroyed and damaged electricity and telecommunication lines (over 200 settlements had up to one-week disruptions in electricity supply), activated landslides, damaged 3 dams and 15 bridges, and made 86.5 kilometres of roads unusable. In the four most affected districts alone, the flooding ruined 11,991 hectares of farmlands. Furthermore, the flood waters overran about 1,000 private and public wells, compelling people to use the unsanitary water for drinking, bathing, and cooking purposes. Local authorities put their main efforts into the reinforcement of dams and reconstruction of infrastructure. Rescue teams and local authorities cleared up the mess and assessed the damage. Private citizens' and municipal contractors' best efforts enabled cleanup work to complete in one month.

Some 1,000 military personnel were engaged in building 25 new houses for the people affected by floods in the capital; these houses were finished before the winter season.

The Moldova Red Cross Society (MRC), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the Federation) and in close cooperation with local authorities, completed the programme of distributing humanitarian aid to 541 families (1046 people) affected by the August floods in Chisinau (including 2 settlements in suburbs) and 2 districts (6 settlements). During the disaster, this programme included the distribution of food parcels, hygienic kits, bed linen sets, and blankets; in addition to these, kitchen sets and mattresses were distributed during the recovery period.

During the course of the relief operation, after the disaster response activities, the National Society revised their plan of action - which was outlined in the Minor Emergency Appeal launched on September 9th - and redirected efforts from relief to rehabilitation. As a result of these efforts, more than 2,000 people were able to access sanitary drinking water.

The budget was also revised according to the new plan of action. The majority of activities under the revised plan of action were completed by the end of December.

Coordination

During the course of operation, the Federation Delegation for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine monitored and provided support to the Moldova Red Cross Society as required.

Individual branches of the National Society have been in daily contact with the relevant authorities and the Emergency Department to monitor the situation and to develop their response initiatives. The National Society President, as a member of the Government Humanitarian Aid Commission, has taken part in all coordination

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meetings relating to the floods situation. As a principal emergency response agency operating in the field, the National Society maintained close contacts with the Emergency Department, local administrations and media.

At the emergency relief stage, the MRC also coordinated its assistance to affected people with a non-governmental organisation, "Our Home is Chisinau", in order to prevent duplication of efforts.

Analysis of the Operation - Objectives, Achievements, Impact

Goal: The vulnerability of the populations affected by the floods is reduced.

Direct assistance activities carried out within the relief operation included the provision of food and non-food aid. Other activities included water and sanitation initiatives, such as the provision of hygiene parcels to the most vulnerable people for one month and the rehabilitation of a public well which will ensure sustainable water supply to the nearby 3 communities and those using the highway.

MRC staff and branch volunteers, themselves affected by the floods, played a key role in relief activities such as conducting distributions of food and non-food aid.

Objective: The populations affected by floods have received food and non-food aid and their living conditions have improved

Relief distribution (food and basic non food items)

Result 1: Access to minimum energy/dietary requirements is secured for some 400 vulnerable families affected by the disaster.



Food parcels are good support for affected families before a long winter

The MRC had originally planned to assist 400 affected families with food support through its humanitarian aid operation; however, the MRC's assessment identified a total of 416 families (861 people) in two Chisinau communities and five communities of two rural districts as being in need of food assistance. Beneficiary families were registered and received food parcels during the emergency relief stage in Chisinau and during November-December 2005 in the rural districts.

All families received one month of supplementary food support in the amount of 1,000 Kcal per person per day, which represents about half of the standard food intake per person as outlined by the Sphere charter. Each family food parcel included the following set of food items: cereals (rice, wheat),

macaroni, sugar, and vegetable oil. A total of 680 food parcels were purchased. The MRC adhered to the Federation's Field Procurement Procedures, and all requests for quotation were designed by the MRC in cooperation with the Federation.

The following tables show the distribution status of the food relief items and geographic distributions of beneficiaries:

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Items	Distributed	Area	Number	
			Beneficiaries: Families/Individuals	Food Parcels
Rice (kg)	756	Chisinau (1 Community in city)	71/144	487 kg (own sources)
Wheat (kg)	756	Briceni district (4 Villages)	211/395	255
Macaroni (kg)	1,448	Riscani district (1 Village)	49/136	85
Sugar (kg)	756	Chisinau (1 Community in suburban district)	85/187	174
Vegetable oil (kg)	378	Total	416/862	514
Fish tins (x 240g)	1,134	Stock available		166

The beneficiary families were assisted through a one-time distribution of food parcels. As a result of the MRC's support, the most affected families improved their overall nutrition during the recovery period from the floods. Targeted beneficiaries were members of the most affected and vulnerable groups, such as lonely elderly people aged 60 and over (306 people/211 families); multi-child families (302 people/70 families); families with physically handicapped members (170 people/104 families); and low income families with children (84 people/31 families).

Result 2: Access to minimum hygiene requirements is secured and living standards improved for some 1,000 vulnerable families affected by the disaster.

The MRC focused on the distribution of family hygiene kits as the high prices of soap and detergent made sanitation and personal hygiene unaffordable for the affected rural communities. Therefore, the National Society purchased a total of 1,000 family hygiene kits, containing 3 kg of detergent, 1 bottle of shampoo (0.9 L), 2 bars of washing soap (250g each) and 5 bars of hand soap (100g each). Hygiene kits were distributed to 541 families in Chisinau and three other districts (Briceni, Riscani, Criuleni). Families with four or fewer members received one hygiene kit, while families with 5 - 8 members received two hygiene kits and families larger than that received three kits.

The following table shows the distribution of the hygiene kits and geographic distribution of the beneficiaries:

Area	Number	
	Beneficiary Families	Hygiene Kits
Chisinau (2 Ccommunities)	249	258
Briceni district (4 Villages)	225	404
Criuleni district (1Village)	18	20
Riscani district (1Village)	49	152
Total	541	834
Stock available		166

Based on needs assessment, the National Society also purchased bedding materials and kitchen sets for distribution among the most affected and displaced population: 30 mattresses, 200 woollen blankets, 200 bed linen sets, and 150 kitchen sets. Again, all purchases adhered to the Federation's Field Procurement Procedures, and all requests for quotation were designed by the MRC in cooperation with the Federation.

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Items in Kitchen Sets	Quantity
Enamelled cooking pot (7L)	1
Cast-iron copper (6L) + lid	1
Frying pan + lid	1
Metallic bowl (3L)	1
Deep and metallic plate (0.4L)	5
Metallic cup (0.4L)	5
Stainless steel spoon	5
Stainless steel blade knife (15cm)	1

Items in Bed linen Sets	Quantity
Blanket cover	1
Bed sheet	1
Pillow cloth	2

Non-food items were provided to the most affected families. The selection of beneficiary families was based on the level of vulnerability, with special attention paid to families whose homes were destroyed or seriously damaged.

Items	Blankets	Bed linen Sets	Mattresses	Kitchen Sets
Distributed	200	200	14	18
Remaining Stock	-	-	16	132

As the table shows, the MRC did not distribute the majority of the kitchen sets and approximately half of the mattresses purchased. This resulted from an unexpectedly long procurement time for these items (more than 1.5 months). By the time the purchase was arranged, they appeared not to be necessary. It was decided that the remaining 132 kitchen sets and 16 mattresses would be stored by the National Society for use in future disasters.



Distribution of non-food relief items in Briceni district

In addition to the newly purchased supplies, the Moldova Red Cross offered support from its own reserves to 118 evacuated people in Chisinau by supplying blankets, candles, and hygienic supplies (washing powder, shampoo, kitchen and body soap, tooth paste, tooth brush, shaving kits). The quantity of the items distributed varied from 10 to 300 units.

The MRC was also supported in their efforts to assist affected people by the Finnish Red Cross (FRC). In kind contribution from the FRC consisted of 14,400 kg of second-hand clothes and the donation of funds for the distribution of the clothes (the MRC has prepared a separate bi-lateral report on these funds).

The receipt of hygiene kits, blankets, bedding materials, and kitchen sets helped vulnerable beneficiaries to recover from the effects of the floods.

Water and sanitation

Result 1: To provide construction materials to assist in the renovation of a public water well for easy access to clean water for the 2,390 people living in a flood-affected area.

In Orhei district, the village of Curchi suffered the complete destruction of a well that served the local population, the population of two neighbouring villages, and those who travel on a highway adjacent to Curchi.

The total budget required for reconstruction of the well was estimated at CHF 30,000. Once local authorities had taken their financial situation into consideration, they approached the Red Cross Society for additional support in reconstructing the well and the surrounding field in order to avoid future flooding. To address this need, the DREF

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budget was revised and CHF 8,000 was spent on the procurement of building materials such as sand, cement, chalk blocks, bricks, and paint. The MRC's contribution to well repairs amounts to 27% of all costs.



Nearly-completed well reconstruction in Curchi, Orhei district

Due to the combined efforts of authorities, village inhabitants, and the MRC, the well was reconstructed and people can now make use of clean drinking water. Easier access to clean water is especially important for the elderly in Curchi.

There is a commemorative plaque installed near the well that testifies to the participation of the Moldova Red Cross Society in the reconstruction process. The national and local governments have also made their appreciation of the efforts of the MRC known.

Impact

Food and hygiene kits were greatly needed by the beneficiaries. Many families experienced a temporary loss of their ability to generate income and by receiving assistance in the form of food and hygiene

supplies, beneficiaries were able to concentrate on other elements of their recovery. The fact that these packages were prepared at the National Headquarters and then distributed through Red Cross branches made it easier for branch personnel to respond to those in need in timely manner as the packages were 'ready-for-distribution' and no additional packing or preparation was required.

Constraints

One of the main constraints of operation was that confirmation of information reported during the operation was slow, meaning that coordination and communication between headquarters and branches should be improved in future.

During the course of the programme, the MRC also found it quite difficult to find suppliers for mattress and kitchen sets in the country.

National Society Capacity Building

The capacity of the National Society was strengthened as a result of the implementation of the operation. In particular, Red Cross staff has gained important experience in logistics and the distribution of relief goods. This is the first time the MRC was involved in rehabilitation work and this experience was the most important for future National Society activities. The MRC improved their contacts and coordination with local authorities. The MRC's visibility and image in the country was also improved as a result of both immediate relief activities and the subsequent contribution to rehabilitation work.

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