

Albania: Snowfalls

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"Severe winter with unusual snowfall (1.5-2 m) and ice has engulfed the north, north-east and southeast of Albania. Up to 400,000 people have been isolated or affected. Food reserves have also been low."



SITUATION

Severe winter conditions with ice and extremely heavy snowfall (1.5-2 m) affecting much of Albania. Regional and rural roads blocked; up to 400,000 people isolated or affected. Food reserves low. Affected prefectures: Kukes, Dibra, Shkodra, Lezha, Korca, Elbasan, Berat, Gjirokastra, Vlora.

Avalanche in Debra commune caused two deaths, serious damage to 25 homes, and killed 250 livestock. Many communes rarely blocked by snow cut off.

ACTION

400,000 USD made available by Albanian Government for road clearing/damage repairs; additional 400,000 USD released for basic food items. Food now being distributed. Heavy machinery, tractors clearing roads in northern region. Helicopters evacuating sick to Tirana hospital. Albanian Red Cross distributing parcels for 1,000 families. Total amount of money needed for parcels is 63,315 CHF.

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