

To: Mr. Calum Gardner, Chief, RMBB

DATE: 13/February/2015

From: Carlo Scaramella, DRD RBC

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CC: Mr. Mohamed Diab, Regional Director, RBC  
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## IMMEDIATE RESPONSE EMERGENCY OPERATION 200819

### RESPONSE TO ALBANIA FLOODS 2015

#### Part 1: Information Note

##### NATURE OF EMERGENCY

###### Location:

Heavy rains and flash flooding started to affect Albania on 31 January 2015, with the heaviest amounts, over 200 mm, occurring along the border with Greece. The Southern areas of Albania, particularly Vlora and Fier, Berat, Elbasan and Gjirokaster districts have been the most severely affected.

###### Causes:

Uninterrupted heavy rains for almost five days since 31 January increased the levels of the Vjosa, Devollm, Osum and Seman rivers which have overflowed causing the worst flooding in 40 years.

On 11 February WFP received a formal request from the Government of Albania to support in the relief effort. Albania has also requested assistance through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the UN Resident Coordinator.

###### Effects:

Disaster impact and needs assessments are still on-going in the country and information remains incomplete. According to preliminary data received from the Emergency Commission of Albania and Albanian local authorities:

- Some 42,000 people have been affected, including in Vlora 15,800, Fier 20,000, Berat, Elbasan, and Gjirokaster in total 6,100 people, respectively.
- Around 2,000 houses are surrounded by water, most of them already flooded and seriously damaged;
- Around 50,000 heads of livestock were lost; and around 6,000 evacuated.
- An area of 17,000 acres of farm land is flooded: in the areas of Vlora 8,000 acres, Fier 7,000 acres, Berat 1,000 acres, Elbasan 600 acres, Gjiroastr 400 acres.

In addition, many bridges are destroyed and highways affected thereby preventing traffic on the main communication routes. Some power stations and water supply stations are inundated with some of the affected areas lacking power and drinking water, which increases the level of vulnerability of many families.



# Albania

## Flood Affected Areas - 11 February 2015



Date Created: 11 Feb 2015  
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 Website: [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)  
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Map Reference:  
 ALB\_FL\_AffectedArea\_A3P

- Floods Affected Prefecture
- National Capital
- Major Town
- Intermediate Town
- Small Town
- International boundary line
- River
- Surface Waterbody

Data sources: WFP, UNIGIS, GADM  
 Albanian government, census 2011

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**Total numbers affected:**

According to the preliminary Red Cross assessments conducted in the five most affected districts, the number of the affected people is around 42,000. About 850 families have been evacuated by military units and other government services.

**WFP IR EMOP:****Justification for an immediate response, expected impact:**

WFP RBC has an oversight responsibility for the Balkan countries, including Albania. A number of concurrent factors justify WFP's immediate response:

- ✓ Food assistance has been identified as one of the main emergency requirements (IFRC, Government of Albania).
- ✓ Most of the affected population are small farmers who lost assets, winter reserves of food, and livestock, and require support to bridge to the recovery phase.
- ✓ Public safety nets in Albania are very weak and do not have the capacity to expand to cater for the needs of the affected people.
- ✓ While some food assistance is being provided by IFRC, it will be short term (one month) and only addressing a small part of the full caseload.
- ✓ A large part of the most affected and vulnerable population are not receiving food assistance in the post-disaster phase.

In light of the above, following the official request from the Government of Albania, and further to initial contacts and consultations with RC, IFRC, EU and other partners, WFP will:

- (a) Deploy a technical mission to review needs and define technical requirements including targeting mechanisms;
- (b) Provide a three-month cash intervention targeting the most vulnerable and affected, and bridging until the recovery phase. A full detailed plan of this intervention, including possible adjustments in transfer value and beneficiary numbers, will be provided by the WFP technical mission.

**Background**

Sectorial assistance is provided by a number of different actors, as follows:

- **Shelter.** Managed by Local Authorities; evacuated people are accommodated with their relatives. The Albanian Red Cross will contribute with the distribution of blankets.
- **Water and sanitation.** Provision of drinking water will be done by local authorities and private companies while Albanian RC will deliver hygienic kits and leaflets with health information.
- **Food security:** According to the IFRC, the Albanian Red Cross, in close cooperation with government authorities, will cover the food needs of the 2,000 most vulnerable families (about 8,000 people) for one month only.

At present, the IFRC and its Albanian branches seem to be the primary organization on the ground coordinating local/government efforts.

**UN system contribution:**

- Few UN agencies are present in Albania with mainly a development portfolio, including UNDP, UNIFEM, UNFPA and UNHCR.
- The RC will manage an OCHA approved USD 50,000 fund for local purchase. No further engagement is expected from OCHA at this time.
- WFP RBC has already been in contact with RC to jumpstart coordination.

**Other actors:**

The European Union is supporting Albania in the initial response: Austria and Slovakia are sending material support via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism: blankets, beds, tents, generators and winter clothing. EU assistance is coordinated by the Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), which continues to closely monitor the flood situation in the Balkans.

**EMOP IRA Duration**

Three months, from 13-February to 12- May 2015 .

**Number of beneficiaries and location**

WFP plans to assist up to a total of 10,000 estimated beneficiaries in the most affected areas in the south.

The target of 10,000 beneficiaries is an estimate and represents less than one fourth of the total caseload of affected people. WFP's target number will be revised and/or validated by the WFP mission. WFP target beneficiaries might also include part of the 8,000 people targeted with one month assistance by the Red Cross. Targeting criteria will be discussed with the Red Cross during WFP's mission to Albania.

**Implementation modality:**

One-off Cash intervention targeting 10,000 most vulnerable people to cover food basket for 3 months (to be validated by WFP technical mission).

The implementation of this intervention will also allow testing the potential for more systematically engaging in innovative post disaster cash interventions for food security.

**Food basket composition and ration levels:**

Emergency Cash Intervention (value transfer USD35 per month pp).

**Mode of implementation:**

A technical mission (RBC and HQ) will immediately deploy to conduct relevant assessments, coordinate and develop operational plans with government and national partners as well as UN agencies.

According to IFRC initial assessments, there is no major disruption of the market in the country; the banking infrastructure is generally well developed and all modalities of payment systems are in place; furthermore, no problem are reported in terms of ensuring physical access to food markets.

The mission findings will feed into planning process and determine number of beneficiaries, targeting criteria, geographic scope and modality.

This IR-EMOP (Response to Albania Floods – emergency safety nets for food security in Albania) will be managed by the RBC in coordination with Rome HQ specialized units, and in collaboration with local partners (UN, Govt, Red Cross).

The national government civil registry will provide the platform for registration of affected households. WFP may deploy SCOPE services to manage beneficiary data for different transfer mechanisms. Hand over will be arranged as appropriate with the Government of Albania.

Monitoring and reporting

It is expected that IFRC and/or the Albanian Red Cross will be engaged to perform monitoring and evaluation functions in support to WFP’s intervention.

**Part 2: EMOP Budget (attached)**

**The total Budget amounts to USD 1,428,507**

Total EMOP budget is attached as Annex 1.  
*(Use standard EMOP Project Budget Plan Format)*

**PART 3: EMOP APPROVAL**

- 1) IRA funding is available to cover EMOP budget

Calum Gardner, Chief, RMBB: \_\_\_\_\_, Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) EMOP is approved

Stefano Porretti, Director of Emergencies, OSE: \_\_\_\_\_, Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Annex 1 – Budget Summary