



**SOLIDARITY BRINGS BACK HOPE**

**UNPRECEDENTED FLOODS IN SERBIA**

MAY 2014







# CATASTROPHIC FLOODS IN

The tragedy that struck the Serbian people in mid-May 2014 is unusual in many regards. The never before seen amount of rain, which melted the sky and earth together, made the water level in the rivers higher than ever. The waters of not so big rivers of Sava, Kolubara, Morava and their tributaries caused the unprecedented flooding and catastrophe. The biggest weather disaster ever in Serbia, since the beginning of hydrological measuring in 1870, turned the rivers into sea. The water was swallowing everything on its way. It took away in second what generation were making for centuries. In only few hours entire cities, towns and villages were devastated... Whole settlements were cut off from the rest of the world. The flooding wiped the crops, farms, industrial plants, roads, bridges, railroads, water and power supply networks... The people were left for days without the electricity. Telephones stopped working. The damaged is measured in hundreds of millions of euros.





# SERBIA IN MAY 2014

The capital city, Belgrade, was in fear because of the high level of the Sava and Danube rivers, but its people, along with the members of the army, police and special protection units, managed to defend the capital and several more endangered cities.

Obrenovac suffered the most. The streets and roads were flooded, bridges torn down... Many residential houses, factories and shops were damaged or destroyed. The power plant "Nikola Tesla" and its coal strip-mines, as well as the power plant "Kostolac" were flooded too, thus jeopardizing the regular power supply.

At the most difficult moments, the first help to the endangered people came from their fellow compatriots, but also from abroad – Russia, USA, EU and many others. While risking their own lives the rescuers were taking the terrified victims to the safe ground – temporary shelters in Belgrade, Novi Sad and other towns.





Tens of thousands of people were evacuated and taken care of. Dozens have lost their lives. Fortunately, the death toll was not so high, having in mind the extend of the disaster. The consequences of this big tragedy were reduced owing to the tremendous efforts and sacrifices by the army, police, Red Cross activists and volunteers who showed how to love one's village, town, country and people. Active among the volunteers were athletes, actors, students... Great courage made some new heroes. The raging muddy waters have been restrained. After several days the water has withdrawn. However, other horrible consequences of nature's anger have appeared. The landslides took down houses and shattered roads. What was left behind are ruined buildings, mud, corpses of dead animals, threatening with infectious diseases under the hot sun, overall poverty, helpless people unable to earn some money and support their existence.





**It is now necessary to renovate what was destroyed and bring life back to devastated towns. We need to rebuild the roofs over people's heads, schools, health centers, libraries, cultural institutions... We ought to renew the production in the factories and on the fields that were erased by the water. How to help? How to feed the families who have been rendered homeless, without income and job? How to start from scratch and regain faith in the future?**

**The answer lies in the hearts of the good people, strong humanistic unity and unselfishness. One must believe in the victory of the humanitarian spirit, that the states, governments, international organizations, economic and financial factors, eminent individuals and ordinary citizens all over the world will show compassion for the misfortune of a nation in the Balkans, that they will share with them what they can and as their consciousness dictates. In any case, Serbia owes big gratitude to all those who have extended help or who are yet to show that we are all depending on each other in this world.**

# FACTS ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES

## Cause of floods:

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Heavy precipitations and the “Tamara” cyclone Between 13 and 15 May, Serbia was struck by the heaviest rainfall in the history of meteorological records. Affected areas: Belgrade, the Sumadija region, Western Serbia, the Morava river basin (Pomoravlje), the Srem region.

The surge of floods on the river Sava, near Sabac, reached a cote of 6.6 meters, which was the highest level of that river in that town in the history of records. A large number of citizens had to be evacuated.

## The area suffering the heaviest consequences:

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The town of Obrenovac was struck by the floods most. More than 90% of the town was flooded and all the citizens were evacuated. Extensive damage was also inflicted to the towns of Krupanj, Paracin, Petrovac, Svilajnac, Smederevska Palanka, Sremska Mitrovica...

## The damage inflicted to the economic sector:

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The largest thermal power plant in Serbia, “Nikola Tesla”, which produces half of the electric energy in Serbia, had to suspend its production. Its coal mines, which are its source of supply, were turned into a huge lake.

The Serbian government was compelled to declare a state of emergency due to severe floods and to employ all the rescue capacities and also to seek help from other countries. A large number of volunteers responded to the very first indication of a natural disaster. When the Serbian prime minister issued a direct call for volunteers, instead of the “up to 1,000” invited ones, some 10,000 people arrived to help.

## International aid:

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A large number of countries reacted by sending special teams and rescuers to the flooded areas immediately. Russia responded first and sent rescuers and divers, equipment and other aid. The European Union, countries from the region, the USA, the United Arab Emirates and others responded as well.



























































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## HOW TO SEND AID FOR THE REMOVAL OF CONSEQUENCES OF FLOODS IN SERBIA



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### Payment in dinars:

Account: 840-3546721-89

Recipient: Ministry of Finance,  
Treasury Administration

Payment purpose: Government  
of the Republic of Serbia, Removal  
of consequences of emergency  
situation - floods

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### Payment in euros (EUR):

Intermediary bank SWIFT: DEUTDEFF

Account with institution: NBSRRSBG,  
De20500700100935930800

National Bank of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia

Beneficiary IBAN:

Rs35908504619019323080

Ministry of Finance, Treasury  
Administration, Belgrade, Serbia

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### Payment in dollars (USD):

Intermediary bank SWIFT: BKTRUS33

Account with institution:

NBSRRSBG. 04415465

National Bank of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia

Beneficiary IBAN:

RS35908504619019323080

Beneficiary name and address:

Ministry of Finance, Treasury  
Administration, Belgrade, Serbia

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### Payment in other currencies:

For payment in other currencies,  
use PayPal SEND MONEY

PayPal Send Money address:

floodrelief@gov.rs

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