



DISASTER
RELIEF

CASE REPORT
Romania—Floods
July 1975

Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523



More than 2,500,000 hectares of land were inundated and 22 percent of the cereal crop in Romania was destroyed.

Foreign Disaster Case Reports are publications of the Office of the Foreign Disaster Relief Coordinator, Agency for International Development. This office has responsibility for coordinating U.S. Government foreign disaster relief responses and for the further coordination of such activities with those of the U.S. private and international disaster relief communities.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Director acknowledges assistance received in the preparation of this and other case reports from the many public and private organizations in the United States and abroad engaged in foreign disaster relief.

ROMANIA

Floods—July 1975

During the latter part of June, torrential rains caused tributaries and streams of the Danube River to overflow their banks flooding many parts of the country. Economic losses were estimated to be greater than the devastating floods of 1970. The Romanian Government estimated casualties and losses as follows:

Dead	60
People affected	1,000,000
Dwellings damaged or destroyed	100,000
Land inundated	2,500,000 hectares
Industrial plants affected	200
Rail and roadbeds washed away	30 kilometers
Rail bridges destroyed	16
Domestic animals killed	150,000
Damage to roads, telecommunications network, and public utilities	Extensive
Grain harvest destroyed	22 percent
VALUE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE	\$ 485,787
VALUE OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES	\$ 5,000
VALUE OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY	\$5,501,776

The slow but steady rise of the Danube Basin rivers limited the loss of life and injury figures were low even though the floods spread over all southern Romania during July. The Government of Romania (GOR) moved rapidly to coordinate all relief efforts. Army and police were mobilized and able-bodied citizens were drafted for flood relief and preventive work. The primary concern was to save cereal crops since the floods occurred during harvest time. President Nicolae Ceausescu proclaimed a state of emergency on July 3. The Romanian Red Cross actively supported the GOR's relief program by providing medical care to flood victims, disinfecting houses and other buildings, and distributing relief supplies. The severity of the floods caused the GOR to appeal to other governments for assistance. Anticipating the need for medicines, antibiotics, and disinfectants, the GOR Acting Foreign Minister on July 9 contacted the U.S. Ambassador, providing him with an account of the flood damage, and requested

U.S. Government aid.

In view of the scope of the disaster and the massive effort by the Red Cross to help the affected population, an urgent request for relief in cash and kind was made to the League of Red Cross Societies.

By mid-July the floodwaters began to recede draining off toward the Danube. The banks of the river were hastily reinforced to avoid further disastrous floods. On July 18, President Ceausescu partially lifted the state of emergency except in regions bordering the Danube and a decree was imposed to increase production levels on sectors of industry and agriculture not affected by the floods so as to fully recoup the losses by the year's end.

The entire Romanian population made all efforts to remove the traces of the disaster by salvaging crops and re-sowing flooded agriculture land wherever possible; restoring road and rail transportation, electrical power and communications, all of which suffered serious damage.



Floodwaters carried silt and mud into the streets of many towns and cities located along the overflowing tributaries and sub-tributaries of the Danube.

Assistance Provided by the U.S. Government

U.S. Ambassador Harry G. Barnes, Jr. having met with GOR officials and later consulting with United Nations representatives declared the floods constituted a disaster warranting U.S. Government (USG) assistance. He exercised his disaster relief authority on July 10, requesting relief supplies be provided by the USG, and on August 7, the following supplies arrived in Bucharest on two U.S. Air Force C-141s.

90,000 pounds of non-fat dry milk \$85,262
 1,000,000 doses each of ampicillin,
 tetracycline, and multivitamins . 80,000
 50 Ped-o-jets immunization guns . 46,050
 Airlift and freight costs 38,935
 (Ambassador's Fund expenditures . 2,647)
 190,000 kilos of assorted vegetable seeds were procured in the United States by A.I.D.'s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and shipped by ocean freight from New Orleans arriving at Constanta, Romania in

April 1976. Cost of the seed including freight was \$235,540.

President Gerald Ford visited Romania on August 2 and 3. He extended his sympathy and expressed admiration for the courageous efforts the Romanian people made to overcome the disaster.

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

Church World Service sent \$5,000 in support of an appeal for funds requested by the World Council of Churches/Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service to aid victims of the floods.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

	<i>Value of Assistance</i>
<i>United Nations System</i>	
United Nations Development Program	\$ 25,000

United Nations Disaster Relief Office	20,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	5,000
United Nations Industrial Development Organization ..	*
United Nations International Children's Fund	20,000
World Food Program	1,667,800
World Health Organization	32,000
TOTAL	\$1,769,800

* Value of assistance not reported

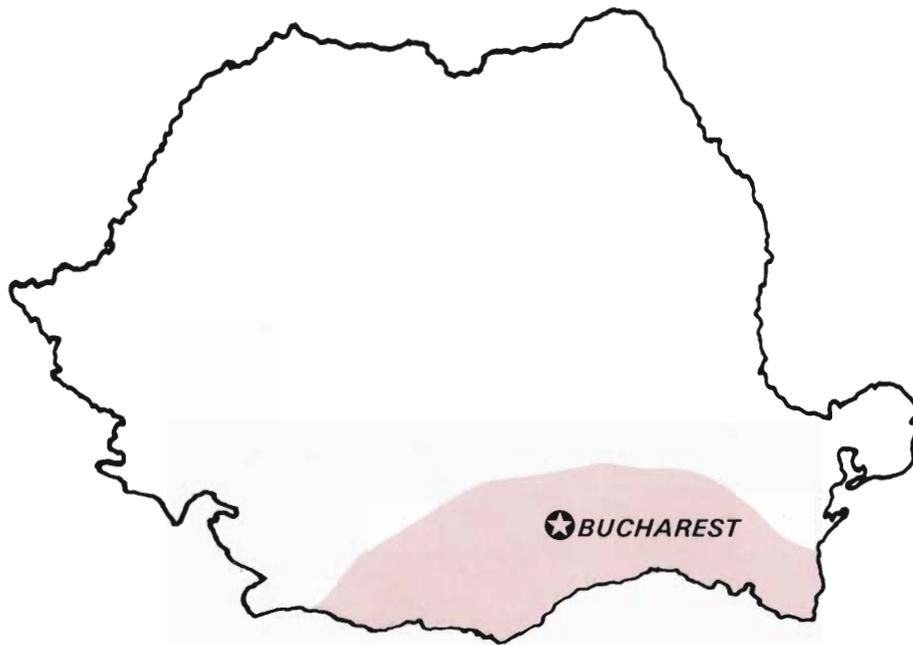
	Value of Assistance
<i>League of Red Cross Societies</i>	
Belgium	\$ 2,857
Bulgaria	123,695
Canada	8,051
China (People's Republic of) .	277,777
Czechoslovakia	13,696
Denmark	4,612
Finland	43,035
France	3,411
Germany (Democratic Rep.) .	46,695
Germany (Federal Rep. of) ...	44,585
Great Britain	2,304
Greece	11,578
Iran	50,000

Korea (People's Democratic Republic)	279,801
Lebanon	402
Liechtenstein	401
Luxembourg	803
Monaco	1,176
Netherlands	7,791
Norway	10,162
Poland	5,020
Somalia	10,000
South Africa	449
Spain	8,928
Sudan	862
Sweden	256,410
Switzerland	39,198
Tunisia	1,000
U.S.S.R.	5,730
Yugoslavia	2,941
TOTAL	\$1,298,370

	Value of Assistance
<i>Governments</i>	
Canada	\$ 73,592
Germany (Federal Rep. of) ...	2,246,877
Greece	14,342
Switzerland	98,795
TOTAL	\$2,433,606



Economic loss was extensive as hundreds of industrial plants and factories were affected by the floodwaters.



ROMANIA