

# ANNUAL REPORT



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

## CENTRAL EUROPE

*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 178 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

**Appeal No. 01.42/2002; Appeal target: CHF 7,727,142; Budget revised to CHF 6,561,048; Appeal coverage: 76%**

### Overall analysis of the programme w

The socio-economic situation is diverse in the region. In some countries the situation is still difficult, while at the same time some positive developments were seen in the Baltics and other countries. In December the European Union (EU) approved applications for eight of the region's fifteen countries to join the union in May 2004. This means that these countries are observers to the EU from 1st of January 2003. The Regional Delegation (RD) started to support the NSs of those countries who are in accession. These countries are Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Besides the eight Central European NSs, the RD will also support Cyprus and Malta Red Cross societies in their accession process. The position of the EU Enlargement Officer was established in autumn and the job started in November.



The regional delegation started to implement the revised Europe strategy, as a part of the strategy of change, prepared by the Secretariat in Geneva. The strategy brought about several structural changes in the delegation, aiming at greater cost-effectiveness and decentralisation of the services. RD closed the Regional Logistics Unit, located in Budapest, in August. The Regional Finance Unit was moved from Budapest to Ankara and the final handover took place in February 2003. The decision to close the Regional Planning and Reporting Unit was made in autumn and a new regional reporting unit will be established in the spring in Ankara.

The number of expatriate delegates is decreasing in the delegation and in the area of human resources the focus is on regional recruitment. RD tested some short term consultancies in EU matters and resource development as a flexible way to find the best expertise in providing support to national societies.

The lack of funding for the organisation development (OD) programme and lack of an OD Delegate had an impact on institutional and resource development projects. However, the regional delegation was consulted by several national societies in governance, management and financial development

issues. The Partnership Meeting in Poland in early October saw an active dialogue between the national societies in the region, major donor societies and the Federation's Secretariat.

In the area of programmes the delegation focused its efforts on disaster management, health and care, and promotion of humanitarian principles and values. The flood operations during the autumn in Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary and Albania were co-ordinated by the RD, in close co-operation with the Disaster Management Committee in Geneva. The appeal brought in excess of the CHF 2,275,000 that had been requested, meaning that the operation was fully funded.

The flood operations indicated well the present strengths and weaknesses in the area of disaster preparedness of the NSs concerned. The Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT) were tested in real circumstances and the experiences were mainly positive. The training provided by the RD during the last two years has strengthened the capacities of the NSs essentially.

The European Conference in April in Berlin underlined that the Federation should recognise HIV/AIDS and TB as its health priority, which requires long-term commitments. The regional health programme accordingly focused on this area. The other key areas in health were psychological support, voluntary blood donor recruitment, community based first aid and health in emergencies.

The Regional delegation was active in promoting humanitarian principles and values. The Red Cross Day was committed to the global HIV/AIDS campaign, World Disaster Report was launched regionally in Sarajevo in June with comprehensive coverage of the international and national media, and the Hunger Day event was one of the major events in 10 national societies. The role of the youth was exceptionally strong both in the May 8th and Hunger Day events.

The RD acted as a resource that could be consulted by NSs in governance, management and financial development issues. The Bosnia and Herzegovina RC, Latvian RC, Romanian RC, Slovakian RC and Slovenian RC took advantage of this and used the expertise available. As a part of the organisational development programme Participatory Community Development pilot projects were facilitated together with many NS in the region. The RD's Youth Officer supported and provided material for the Hunger Day events in ten countries.

## **Objectives, Achievements and Constraints w Disaster Response w.**

Throughout 2002 minority returns continued in the sub-region especially to and within Bosnia-Herzegovina, recording a record number of returns and to a lesser extent to Croatia. In FR Yugoslavia, most of the refugee caseload has continued to adopt a "wait and see" approach and many, having lived in exile for long time, would prefer not to uproot their families again and are most likely to stay in their host country. As a result of the EU Stabilisation Association process, especially in Croatia preparations are underway for an adoption of a comprehensive asylum system that will have an implication for the work of the respective National Societies in the sub-region vis-a-vis that beneficiary group. To that end concrete steps were taken in order to support the NSs knowledge base and their positioning in the field.

### **Objective 1 To ensure and co-ordinate common regional mechanisms to better address population movement issues in the (sub)region.**

Regular visits to the countries and ongoing communication has created a very good modus operandi, a fertile ground for exchange and know-how transfer.

In countries in transition, experience shows that longer-term strategic involvement with the NSs in the field of displacement is clearly influenced proportionally by a clearly established "in-country" legal base apart from legal mandate stemming from international RC/RC Movement. Preparations and discussions were held with the various NSs concerning the need and the modalities and the appropriateness of advocacy initiatives aiming at establishing an in-country legal base. The Croatian RC started a range of advocacy initiatives in establishing itself as an important player in the return process as well as in the field of asylum.

The new Law on Croatian Red Cross regulating its auxiliary but independent role to the Government in assisting the most vulnerable populations and the Statute of Croatian Red Cross provide significant basis for developing and implementing programmes of assistance to displaced populations, refugees, returnees, asylum seekers and migrants. New Statute of Croatian Red Cross (Article 3, item 8) included provisions stating that Croatian RC “takes part in reception, accommodation and other measures contributing to providing of care to vulnerable and affected population, particularly refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers” (unofficial translation). Regular contacts with relevant governmental stakeholders, UNHCR and EU are kept in order to advocate for Asylum Law to be put in procedure and comments on the current Draft Law were submitted jointly with Croatian Law Centre. Operational agreements were signed and programmes implemented with UNHCR, IOM, Netherlands RC (completed at the end of March) and CRS.

In BiH, the draft RC Law prepared and sent to the BiH Parliament contains provisions re the RC BiH role in dealing with displaced population in the territory of BiH. Similarly the RC BiH Presidency is involved in a dialogue with the relevant Governmental institutions concerning provisions regarding the Red Cross Society in the Law on Asylum, Refugee Law and recently consideration was given to include victims of trafficking as potential target group. The situation in BiH is specific and the ambitions of the RC BiH will have to be measured with its capacity and its recognition by relevant stakeholders.



In FR Yugoslavia, due to fluid and constantly changing political situation, and its reflection on the NS, and the way it works, steps aiming at establishing a legal base were somewhat under constraints. The future union between Serbia and Montenegro, the more and more operational involvement of republican RC structures will by and large determine the limits. Substantial efforts were made by Yugoslav RC PM Co-ordinator and Secretary-general to that end, yet a political constellation slowed down this process.

With the remaining one workshop in Croatia, two in BiH, and four in FR Yugoslavia taking place during 2002, the series of twelve grass-root PM workshops for the local RC branches in the three countries has been completed. These workshops were mounted jointly with UNHCR, IOM, respective Governments, and neighboring NSs and covered some 70-80% of local/municipal branches. The aims of the workshops were to transfer know-how on issues pertinent to displacement to the branch level in order to enhance their capacity to respond to displacement in their own right, to foster dialogue with UNHCR, IOM and authorities but also with attendance of PM coordinators from the sub-region and wider to establish co-operation between the respective NSs in recognition of the sub-regional root causes of displacement. The feedback received from participants and their evaluation shows appreciation and various concrete collaboration mechanism were initiated. In all three countries regular meetings and contacts are being held with UNHCR, IOM, Governmental agencies, NGOs of relevance in the field of population movement. All three NS PM Coordinators attended the Berlin Conference, Croatian RC and Yugoslav RC had presentations on migration in the Operational Guidance working group. Through a networking fund the PM Coordinators were also able to attend training and workshops of relevance.

### **Objective 2 To strengthen the three National Societies in the sub-region through programme development**

Services are being provided through the network of 21 mobile teams attached to the local branches of Red Cross. Those include: distribution of relief items, in-house help, technical assistance, small repairs, assistance with administrative tasks, facilitation of health care provision, assessment of needs of new returnees, referrals, secondary transportation of returnees arriving with UNHCR convoys, etc.

Following the assessment of the needs of newly arrived returnees, mobile teams often provided first assistance; either directly, repairing small-scale damages in their accommodations, or referring

returnees to relevant institutions for reconstruction or other humanitarian organisations. During this year, almost 400 families were provided with small repairs or assistance in purchasing construction material. Four water-sanitation teams in Eastern Slavonia and two in the areas of North and West were cleaning water-wells to those who return home after several years of displacement, assisting some 250 families on average per month. The total number of returnees provided with transport home within the Voluntary Repatriation (VOLREP) programme during the first 12 months comes to 1,082 persons, they arrived with 52 organised convoys. As for the escort of agricultural machinery owned by returnees from FRY, 413 owners benefited from transport assistance to return addresses in Croatia.

Within the public awareness campaign Croatian RC PM leaflet and T-shirts were used to disseminate information and messages of humanity and tolerance to the public: beneficiaries of different ethnic background, partners, local authorities. The video-film "Priority to Humanity", made in order to show Croatian RC activities regarding repatriation and return, was handed out to international and national partners for their information. It was presented during PM workshops in all three countries, at the VI European Regional Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference held in Berlin from 14th to 18th April (within the Operational Guidance Working Group), during the CRC General Assembly, on the occasion of the Red Cross Day for international community representatives, in Budapest Regional Delegation, etc. Furthermore, the film was shown on Croatian TV, TV in FRY, and was sent to the film festival in Montenegro, thereby reaching a large audience.

The cross-border info network between Croatia and Serbia (where most of the refugees from Croatia reside) envisages an exchange of audio-visual messages/information by direct contact of population of concern through the Red Cross branches in FRY and Croatia. Community rooms with activities for children, youth and elderly people were put in function, including computer skills training, language courses.

Due to limited donor support, the fragile setup of the RC BiH and the less than adequate performance of the previous RC BiH PM Co-ordinator only certain areas of progress can be mentioned for the first three quarters of 2002. The grass-root PM workshops mentioned earlier were finalised with the two remaining held in the first half of the year in Neum and Zvornik respectively. The grass-root info volunteer network was established in the priority areas of minority returns with the volunteers equipped with bicycles and/or RC jackets. With the assistance of Netherlands RC an application by RC BiH was facilitated for EU CARDS funds in collaboration with CARE.

In the last quarter preparations were made to set up four Mobile Social integration Teams in Srebrenica, Glamoc/B. Grahovo, Tuzla, and Doboje and towards the end of year procurement of some 6,000 welcome parcels commenced. As a result, increased minority returns and the decrease of international assistance for the return process in BiH, a special Winter Appeal was launched on the 23rd December 2002. This appeal can be found on the Federation website at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?02/3702.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?02/3702.pdf)

It can be stated that RC BiH is increasingly becoming a player to reckon with in the field of displacement in the country.

An Evaluation Mission by Adviser on Asylum from the Swedish Red Cross took place in February, with the aim of discussing the situation regarding asylum in Croatia, FRY and BiH with NSs, IOM and UNHCR. During the month of April, the SoL/Asylum adviser from SweCross commenced his mission in the region attached to the Zagreb PM Office. Asylum is a new field for all three National Societies and assistance from an expert was welcomed and perceived as valuable support, both in the area of designing programmes as well as in positioning the Red Cross among other relevant partners in this field, in accordance to the mandate.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Adviser on Asylum, the Meeting of Experts on Assistance to Asylum-Seekers was held in Zagreb from 6-8 June, to exchange experiences among NSs already engaged with these issues and thereby assist the Red Cross societies of Croatia, BiH and FRY to develop their policy and activities concerning asylum-seekers in their countries. Experts from six

National Societies across Europe actively engaged in programming for asylum-seekers made presentations, introducing their approach to providing protection/assistance to asylum-seekers. They shared the history of their involvement in this field, major obstacles encountered and valuable lessons learned. After the Expert Meeting in June, the National Societies of Croatia, BiH and FRY, one-week study visit of PM coordinators to Swedish Red Cross was organised as significant component of support provided by the Swedish RC. Range of meetings and field visits were attended in order to get a closer look at as many activities Swedish Red Cross is implementing to assist asylum seekers in their country.

In Croatia, for the provision of Care and Maintenance in the Asylum Home, Croatian RC was selected as UNHCR's implementing partner, to take over necessary activities (management of the centre, social services) during transition period before the Asylum Law would be put in force and the Government assumes its responsibilities. A sub-agreement with UNHCR for provision of assistance to asylum seekers was signed and programme implementation was to commence mid-January 2003. The Croatian Law Centre would provide necessary legal services, separate agreement was signed to regulate this component. Assuming its advocacy role on behalf of vulnerable groups towards the government, Croatian RC facilitated meetings between UNHCR and Parliament representatives in order to boost the efforts to put the future Law on Asylum in procedure during the current parliamentary session. Initial assistance in winter clothes was provided to the Jezevo detention centre, to provide for some 120 persons, irregular migrants currently accommodated there. Similarly, initial talks with IOM and Ministry for Labour and Social Welfare were held, Croatian RC is considered as a potential partner in organising care for victims of trafficking.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, a draft twinning agreement has been prepared between RC BiH and Swedish RC on a two-way information sharing and assistance to asylum-seekers. Taking into account the specific situation in BiH the potential is there for the RC BiH involvement with asylum-seekers.

In FR Yugoslavia, the issue of asylum is, by and large, dependent on the outcome of the discussions between Serbia and Montenegro on the new Constitutional Charter, but the UNHCR and Stability Pact working papers are referring to the Yugoslav RC as a potential partner in this field.

The experience of Swedish RC support to the Federation through a Staff-on-loan initiative was valuable based on the NS feedback and might represent a model for future better exchange of NS knowledge. Furthermore, the Guide on assistance to Asylum-seekers in Europe prepared represents a good step towards contributing to the overall institutional knowledge of RC/RC experience.

## **Disaster Preparedness w**

The Goal for the Disaster Preparedness programme in the Central Europe region was to contribute to increasing both the effectiveness and efficiency of the national societies in the region in their response to national disasters.

### **Objective 1 To strengthen disaster response capacity of the national societies in the region through the development of disaster preparedness plans.**

The idea behind the regional Disaster Preparedness work has been and remains to be the creation of a network of Red Cross societies that can work together in case of a disaster. One part of that work is the implementation of good national DP plans identifying the strengths and weaknesses in the respective country. Based on the plans the National Societies have good opportunities to identify where they have capacity to support sister societies but also where they need help. It is very important that the planning is done by the National Society itself, possibly with the support of the Regional Delegation, the Federation Country Delegations and other National sister-societies inside or outside the Central European Region.

In this context it is vital for the National Societies to have good relations with their governments and the National Societies are now developing more agreements with their respective governments than before. But maybe even more importantly, they are developing very good working relations with their

governments. The basis for this work was done during 2000 and 2001 when the Budapest Regional Delegation participated in the Stability Pact Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI). The DPPI includes the following countries in the Central European region: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Romania and Slovenia. Outside the region DPPI also covers Greece, Moldova and Turkey.

DPPI carried out a regional assessment where natural risks, country by country were analysed, reviewed existing national disaster preparedness plans; catalogued ongoing emergency response projects; and made recommendations based on the findings for areas where regional co-operation can have an immediate positive impact and for long-term strategic planning. Although the DPPI is aimed at the respective governments, the Red Cross societies were invited to take part in the process and they proved to be very good participants.

The DPPI has continued to develop during 2002 and based on the proposals from the DPPI assessment several projects have been developed within different sectors. Some projects are more interesting for the Red Cross – e.g. a cross-border project and a standardisation project which in the end will be very important because Red Cross will benefit very much from simplified procedures when sending relief-materials from one country to another.

The DPPI assessment is a good basis for Red Cross DP planning as part of the overall national DP plan; awareness of the national DP planning and legislation; and formulation of a coherent DP strategy for the region in the future. In order to follow up this work the Regional Delegation on behalf of the Federation together with the twelve DPPI countries signed 'The Bucharest Declaration' on Cooperation in Disaster Preparedness and Prevention in South Eastern Europe. The principal objective of the declaration is to develop tools necessary for disaster management and civil emergency organisations to support disaster prevention and preparedness activities. The signing was done during the Stability Pact Working Table III (Security) meeting in Bucharest June 5, 2002.

Following the work-plan made already in 2000 the delegation has, as mentioned above, concentrated on building up a network for the National Society staff working with Disaster Preparedness. This has been done through organising regional DP workshops, training sessions and other events like the regional launch of the World Disasters Report in Sarajevo June 2002. The main issue during the workshops has been the development of a National Society Disaster Preparedness plan and how the National Society can cooperate with their Government, neighboring Red Cross Societies, UNDP/UN OCHA and other NGOs. Today eleven or twelve of the National Societies in the region have at least an embryo of a good DP plan. Other very important issues have been development of Contingency Plans and Conflict Preparedness.

The developments in the region are in line with the expected results, but it is important to underline that some of the plans are more developed than others. However, it is fair to say that these plans give a good base for response in the event of a disaster. Some National Societies have and will continue to develop their DP plans with bilateral support of sister societies i.e. American RC, German RC and the Nordic RCs.

A very positive sign during the Central European floods 2002 was the increased assistance from neighboring National Societies. There are established channels to mobilise international assistance in case the capacity to cope locally or nationally is over-stretched but they need to be developed even further. Another very important theme for the work is the community based approach. In the Disaster Preparedness context this means to secure good planning on the branch and the sub-branch level. It even includes preparing the local population for handling disasters on their own. The developed tool in this respect is the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) method. The Regional Delegation has therefore supported National Societies to train their staff in using the VCA tool. A notable example can be found with the Albanian Red Cross, which has carried out a very successful project in this respect during 2002.

A third important issue is that almost all National Societies have knowledge of how to carry out a response in a disaster situation, but they do not always follow the Sphere standard. The standard followed is more of an ad hoc standard. This was very well reflected in the response to the recent Central European floods in autumn 2002. In order to implement the Sphere standards better, the Regional Delegation will increase its efforts to translate the standards into local languages during 2003.

During 2002 a sub-regional concept has been tested for the southern part of the region. This means that the former Disaster Preparedness Co-ordinator role from Bosnia and Herzegovina, based in Trebinje, has been taken over by the Regional Delegation. From the Trebinje office the Sub-Regional Disaster Management Co-ordinator covers eight countries with support when it comes to training, development issues etc. So far this concept has been very successful and the idea is to develop a similar concept for the Northern sub-region. Before that is done there is a need to clarify the role of the Regional Delegation when the countries in this sub-region become members of the EU in 2004.

**Objective 2 To develop a regional disaster preparedness and response strategy, including contingency planning. The regional strategy for DP/DR will be developed within the framework of the Regional Assistance Strategy and based on the needs of the national societies in co-operation with the Disaster Management and Co-ordination Division in Geneva.**

An embryo of a Regional Contingency Plan based on regional needs, opportunities and threats and the specific roles and responsibilities of National Societies in the area of DP has been developed and will be developed even further during 2003.

As a part of the regional contingency planning the formation of a Disaster Response Unit at the RD started during 2002. It is important to underline that the work has not been completed yet and maybe will never be completed. One reason for this is that the role and responsibilities of the regional delegation in the Federation's disaster response system has not been defined. Another reason is that the original idea was to involve all programme staff (Regional Logistics Unit, information, institutional and resource development, health, training, and youth) in the plan. Since then there have been some substantial changes in the Regional Delegation set up: the Logistic Unit has been closed and the Finance Unit has been moved to Ankara. Another problem anticipated during 2003 will be the move of the Information/Communication and the Planning and Reporting Units to some other place in Europe.

An important project for the Red Cross is Disaster Management Training aiming at joint training sessions for staff from Governments, UNDP, the Red Cross and other NGOs in management, assessments etc. The Regional Delegation is actively participating in this project and it has already strengthened the DM network in the region. i.e. UNDP and Regional Delegation organised a joint Disaster Management training in Sarajevo early November.

The Regional Delegation, in co-operation with the Disaster Management Cooperation Division in Geneva, organised a Disaster Management Training workshop in Budapest for potential members of the Regional Disaster Response Team 2002. The idea is to create a team of people coming from the region trained and capable of carrying out assessments and coordination of international assistance in case of disasters. Experts from countries in the region will be identified, selected and trained to be able to participate in international response teams. The Regional Disaster Response model was tested during the Central European Floods operation and it turned out well.

The next step for the regional co-operation will be that people from UNDP and Governments will be invited to participate in the Disaster Management workshop organised by the Regional Delegation in 2003.

One part in the development of a Regional Disaster Response system is a computerised regional data base that covers available staff and volunteers i.e. youth, vehicles under Federation control, warehouses and stock, suppliers with Federation frame agreements, standards etc., has been outlined during the autumn 2002 but will not be ready by the end of the year.

### **Objective 3 To test national society's DP plans.**

In the plan for 2002 the intention was to test some National Societies Disaster Preparedness plans through organising a simulation. Unfortunately, nature decided to test the plans in at least seven of the countries in the region by itself through the repeated floods that hit the region during 2002. Because of these events there has not been capacity to organise a simulation.

The work done within the Disaster Preparedness programme is very much in line with the goal and the objectives formulated in the appeal 2002-03. There is no need to change the goal and objectives for the programme and whatever has not been achieved in 2002 will be carried forward to 2003 even if there is some uncertainty regarding the future possibilities for the Regional Delegation to play an active role in e.g. the Disaster Management set up in case of a disaster occurring in the region. It is very possible that the Sub-regional concept is the solution that will bring some clarity in this respect.

With all experiences collected during all these events a few things come out very clearly:

- ◆ Networking is absolutely vital when disaster strikes. The fact that the DP/DM coordinators know each other and the capacities of their neighbours is very vital. It has also proven to be very effective when it comes to supporting each other financially; i.e. the Hungarian, Polish and Slovakian RCs have supported sister societies substantially
- ◆ It is very important for the NSs to have good relations with their governments and to be seen as good partners. For example, the Albanian RC is considered to be a key actor in Disaster Preparedness and Response in their country. In general the Red Cross Societies today are developing more agreements with their respective Governments than before.
- ◆ One part of networking is building up a common capacity to respond to disasters in the region. One part of this concept is Regional Disaster Response Teams where people from the National Societies are trained in i.e. assessment and reporting methods in order to be able first of all carry out these very important tasks in their own country but also to be able to support their neighbours in case of need. This concept was tested for the first time during the Central European floods in August and it proved to function quite well.
- ◆ There is a definite need for clarification of the tasks and role of the Regional Delegation in case of a disaster event in the region. Presently there is a lot of confusion when it comes to division of tasks between DMC division in Geneva and the Regional Delegation.

### **Humanitarian Values w**

Fresh challenges were seen in 2002 at a time when the requirement for communications assistance in some countries was critical. The nine-month delay in hiring the much promised second information delegate, and the glaring absence of support for the establishment of a regional information team, left the Communications Unit over stretched. Of particular concern was the fact that the Unit could not address the chronic need for professional media and information activity in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Planned activities have been either severely compromised or made impossible. As a consequence priorities were re-prioritized and a revised plan of action and modified budget were presented in the midyear review. A new information delegate arrived in August 2002, focusing her main efforts on Yugoslavia, as well as assisting with The Bridge and Youth programme training.

### **Objective 1: To develop and strengthen communications capacity of national societies in the region.**

To help establish communication departments as effective units within national societies, and have them recognized as such by the leadership, work continued to identify communications counterparts and develop good working relationships with them. Three national societies were targeted in the first quarter. In the second half of the year the Unit provided direct assistance to the Information Departments in Yugoslavia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina with developing their strategic plans and communications skills.

Further development of the web site for the European Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (ERNA) with NS contributions and an ERNA brochure were done in close collaboration with the Health and Care programme which funded the activity - another example of how, through co-operation, the Unit can remain on course towards its sought-after primary outcomes despite the absence of its own funding. Communications sessions were held in Disaster Management, Participatory Community Development and Youth workshops. Funding from the British RC made it possible to prepare training-of-trainers workshops to be conducted at the beginning of 2003. The Unit continues to seek support for the translation of the Movement's Communicators Guide into the region's national languages. Articles and news stories were produced for Federation print and electronic media, and media releases sent out, related to winter emergencies, HIV/AIDS, World Food Day, population movement and social welfare activity. World Food Day, as well as World AIDS Day were widely used by the youth for their growing regional campaigns, organized with active support from the Unit.

**Objective 2: To promote understanding of Red Cross humanitarian values, principles and work.**

No funding was pledged for joint ventures with the ICRC to provide a humanitarian component for the training programmes of the South-East European Network for Professionalization of the Media (SEENPM), and to organize three individual workshops in which national societies will be brought together with media. Although the dialogue continued with SEENPM, no concrete actions were taken. Due to the poor funding situation, the Unit dropped plans for a Red Cross media award for humanitarian reporting, and for the translation into national languages of the CD-Rom *From Principles to Action*.

In preparation for the European Conference in Berlin, the Communications Unit researched and produced a range of articles on the twin conference themes of migrants and health. These appeared in *The Bridge*, on the Federation's web site, and in a media briefing kit. The Unit also contributed to a Federation video news release, and produced footage on so-called illegal migrants in Hungary and related Red Cross activity and concern.

The RD's new web site was launched as scheduled in the first quarter. It has been adopted as a pilot for Federation regional web sites.

During the summer floods in Europe, the Unit contributed to the information coverage and promotion of the National Societies activities through its own, as well as through international media.

Work has progressed satisfactorily on *The Bridge*, the region's quarterly publication facilitating knowledge sharing, best practice sharing, the definition of issues, self-esteem building, and the promotion of humanitarian values, advocacy and regional thinking and action. The volume was considerably increased by the continued Hungarian edition and the first Polish edition making the Bridge now appear in three national languages. Plans were discussed with the Bulgarian Red Cross and Yugoslav Red Cross for their own editions. The RD is now looking for sustainable, possibly corporate, sponsorship for 2003-2004.

The British Council began using *The Bridge* in its Peacekeeping English Project (PEP). Funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department For International Development (DFID), PEP seeks to improve the English-language skills of key armed forces personnel, preparing them for involvement in international co-operation, including international peacekeeping operations. The British Council considered the humanitarian content, and standard of English in *The Bridge*, ideal for use in its courses.

**Objective 3: To establish information emergency teams formed by Federation and national society communications personnel.**

This activity will occur within the Disaster Preparedness programme, and a first workshop is scheduled for May 2003.

#### **Objective 4: Advocacy and communications guidance for national society, country delegation and regional delegation programmes.**

The Unit was involved in preparations for two campaigns: the May 8 launch of the global campaign against stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS, continued on the World AIDS Day in December that brought widespread national society activity, and the regional Hunger Day campaign. World Food Day, October 16, brought unprecedented regional response in advocacy and massive media coverage in Albania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia and Yugoslavia. Supported by the communications unit. Research conducted by Red Cross youth on social issues produced startling revelations pounced upon by the media.

In December, the communications unit ran a session at a youth conference in Budapest. The Red Cross youth committed themselves to two campaigns in 2003 where they will need support from the regional communications unit– continued global campaign against discrimination related to HIV/AIDS and regional Hunger Day campaign that was a big success in eight countries in 2002.

A chapter on “Reducing earthquake risk in urban Europe” was researched and written for the 2002 *World Disasters Report*. In June, a regional launch of the report accompanied by a seminar attracted a lot of media attention as well as of those from governments, international organizations, and the academic and humanitarian worlds.

The funding of communications activities continued to be a Federation problem worldwide. For the past few years planned programmes, although modest and realistic in relation to existing staffing levels, have proved far too much for the donors. The year 2002 again revealed this to be true. When available funding is limited it is communications programmes which are affected first which is regrettable as it is these very programmes which heighten the profile and appreciation of Red Cross and Red Crescent values and principles, which in turn can improve Movement funding.

That said, the Communications Unit had a productive year although dangerously stretched, especially in the first six months. And it seems appropriate to repeat the conclusions of the last year’s report: “communications seems to remain but a peripheral interest of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, a Movement clearly unperturbed by the unsatisfactory image and appreciation enjoyed by some of its national societies. The question must be asked: does a false sense of security pervade the Movement as younger, more aggressive organizations compete for market share?”

By working ever more closely with the RD’s other major programmes, the communications unit will strive to remain on course towards the primary outcomes sought by the end of 2003. Those are (1) national societies seen to be responsible advocates of humanity, tolerance and social progress, working to prevent as well as mitigate the misfortunes of the region; (2) growing media perception of the Red Cross as a natural ally, a reliable source of independent information on humanitarian issues; (3) responsible humanitarian reporting gaining ever more ground in the media.

Given the longer-term outlook, the responsible management question must now be whether communications needs are best served by a regional communications unit or by the more strategic, and less expensive use of designated specialists brought in as required for specific requested services.

#### **Health and Care w**

The Central Europe regional Health and Care programme was established in 2001 and the implementation of the programme activities started in March 2001. The programme has continued in providing support and assistance to the fifteen Red Cross Societies in Central Europe with capacity building, linking with partners and promoting advocacy Health and Care issues.

Although there was a change of staff, the Health and Care activities were continued smoothly. The established constructive and effective co-operation between Health and Care programme and the other Federations programmes (Youth Development, Disaster Management, Humanitarian Values & Communications) has continued with positive feedback.

The regional Health and Care programme has continued to provide advice and technical support to the Health and Care programmes in the country delegations (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federation Republic of Yugoslavia, Kosovo and Macedonia). Contacts have been with bilateral delegations and delegates working with Health and Care issues.

### **Objective 1. To assist national societies in drawing up strategies for work with health and care**

The VI European Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference in Berlin in 2002 provided the Plan of Action for Health and Care in the Community, to address the health crises in Europe, such as Tuberculosis control (TB) and HIV/AIDS. According to the statistics (WHO) TB is a major reason for the increase in the incidence and deaths in Eastern Europe. Therefore it should be recognized as a health priority which requires long-term commitments. HIV/AIDS infections are increasing in Central Europe region, especially among the intravenous drug users. Development of strategies and plans of action for integration of National Societies TB and HIV/AIDS programmes need coordination and follow-up by the regional Health and Care programme in 2003.

The regional strategy on Social Welfare has been delayed due to the workload of the previous regional Health and Care delegate and the change of staff on the post of regional Health and Care programme. During the third quarter in 2002 it was planned to hire a consultant to complete a review of current Social Welfare programmes run by the National Societies. However, due to the unsatisfactory financial situation the consultant could not be hired. After discussion with the senior officer for Social Welfare at the Federation Secretariat, it was decided that the agenda for the workshop on Social Welfare in 2003 will be based on the previous mapping document and the updated information/interest expressed by the National Societies.

### **Objective 2.: To build capacity in the National Societies of the region with the aim of achieving more efficient, targeted Health and Care programmes which deliver services to vulnerable groups.**

#### **HIV/AIDS & Tuberculosis control**

The regional Health and Care programme has prioritized to assist the ERNA secretariat coordinator. The 6th ERNA meeting was held in Yerevan, Armenia in September 2002. The meeting gathered 27 National Societies from Europe, including ten NS from Central Europe region. Yugoslav Red Cross was accepted as a new member. The Tuberculosis control (TB) programmes were introduced by several participants from the region and the health Officers from the Federation Secretariat. It was agreed that TB will be included in the terms of reference of ERNA.

The theme of the two day workshop, Reduction of Drug Related Harms, was introduced by several experts. The discussions pointed out the importance of Harm Reduction as a part of National Societies' activities in order to promote the health and well-being in the communities of drug addicts and their next of kin. The evaluations from the workshop were very positive. As the workshop was scheduled in late September the National Societies have started to plan the activities on Harm Reduction but the implementation will be in 2003. In addition, the further Harm Reduction activities need more planning and coordination by the National Societies and the regional Health and Care delegate in 2003.

Separate reports from the meetings and workshops are available on the ERNA website which can be found under [www.ifrccee.org/ERNA](http://www.ifrccee.org/ERNA). The initiative made by Lithuanian Red Cross Youth to create an electronic ERNA conference ([ERNAids.yahoo.com](http://ERNAids.yahoo.com)) was highly appreciated by ERNA secretariat and the National Societies. Due to the change of the staff on the post of regional Health and Care delegate and the ERNA coordinator and the time constrains the assistance for updating the ERNA website has been very limited.

#### **Psychological Support**

The workshop on Psychological Support was held in Budapest in May 2002, hosted by the Hungarian Red Cross. The eleven National Societies from the region participated in the workshop. The one day follow-up seminar on Psychological Support was held in Budapest in November 2002. The National

Societies were well prepared to share their experiences in the field of Psychological Support. The discussions and presentations pointed out the importance to cooperate on the regional and sub-regional level as the expertise is very wide due to the different circumstances of the National Societies. In addition to the issues discussed it was an opportunity to create personal contacts for collaboration in the future.

According to the statements of VI European Red Cross/Red Crescent Conference in Berlin the Psychological Support will be integrated in Health and Care programmes run by the National Societies in the region. In 2003 there will be two sub-regional workshops in co-operation with Disaster Management with the agenda focused on the need of Psychological Support in crises affecting the individuals and communities. The workshop on Community Based First Aid will also be focused on Psychological Support issues.

### **Voluntary, Non-Remunerated Blood Donor Recruitment**

The workshop on non-remunerated blood donor recruitment took place in Zagreb in April 2002, hosted by the Croatian Red Cross. During the workshop it was agreed to establish a Regional Task Force to co-ordinate and follow-up the development of blood donor recruitment in the region. The Federation manual "Making a Difference" was introduced to the participants of the workshop. During the last quarter the financial situation of the regional Health and Care programme improved and therefore the plans for translating and printing the manual into the local languages could be started and will be completed in early 2003.

Assistance in close collaboration with the Senior Officer for Blood Donor Recruitment at the Federation Secretariat has been provided to the Slovenian Red Cross which will host the first Regional Task Force in early 2003. The Regional Task Force was scheduled in November 2002 but due to the engagements of Slovenian Red Cross it was postponed.

The Austrian Red Cross made an initiative to prepare the project proposal on EU Action Programme Public Health which covers actions related to the safety and high quality of blood supply. The Austrian Red Cross invited the neighboring National Societies (Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia) to join the proposal preparation. Unfortunately the Czech Republic was not able to attend.

### **First Aid**

The National Societies in the region have been active in implementing various campaigns on the European First Aid Day in September, concerning the Road Safety. The regional delegation contacts with the Reference Centre for First Aid in Brussels were limited. The European First Aid Education Conference were held in Malta in October. During the conference the role and location of Reference Centre was discussed and decided that the French Red Cross will host it in the years to come. The decision was taken that from 2003 the EU accession countries are able to participate in EU Road Safety campaign. Ten National Societies in the region have expressed their interest in participation.

### **Health in Emergencies**

The Disaster Management training took place in Budapest, gathering representatives of National Societies in the region. The regional Health and Care delegate was not involved in this workshop as the sections regarding health issues were handled by the Federation Secretariat, Health and Care department.

At the time when the new regional Health and Care delegate arrived in August 2002 Central Europe was experiencing very critical and severe situations in Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Romania. Due to the time constraints it was not possible for the Disaster Management to brief or orientate the new delegate to participate in the ongoing activities. During the last quarter the preliminary plans for the joint workshops in 2003 on Disaster Management and Health and Care programme were discussed.

**Objective 3. To increase advocacy and the promotion of humanitarian values within the field of health and care.**

Several international days were used as the stimuli for focussing on advocacy in health and care in the region. The European First Aid Day on the 14th September was actively adopted by the National Societies. World TB Day (24th March) was marked in some of the National Societies involved in Tuberculosis control, which is an increasing problem in some of the regions' countries, particularly in Baltic states, Bulgaria and Romania.. World AIDS Day, 1st December, was widely introduced with various campaigns. The detailed descriptions of the campaigns can be found under [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org). The wide implementation of the campaigns pointed out the importance of reducing stigma of the people living with HIV/AIDS and promoting the advocacy. The campaigns were mainly implemented by the Youth development and followed up by the Communication Unit.

**Objective 4.: To provide technical and resource support to the health and care programmes implemented by the national societies and Federation delegation in the region.**

All fifteen National Societies in the region have received technical and resource support depending on their activity and interest of requests. The descriptions below will provide examples of the support given.

The National Societies in the region have been very active in implementing HIV/AIDS projects, e.g Youth Peer Education, translating and printing the Federation manual "Action with Youth", producing training material. This production of manuals in local languages, which has been adapted according to local needs is a great investment for the National Societies who wish to scale up the work on HIV/AIDS prevention.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina the regional Health and Care programme financed four workshops for a total of 140 Peer Educators. The Bulgarian Red Cross has implemented the "STOP AIDS" -project in order to raise the awareness of young people (14-18 years of age) about HIV/AIDS and related issues. The Romanian Red Cross has produced material on HIV/AIDS and drugs to be used in health promotion training sessions with young people. The support was given to the implementation of the training session as a joint projects (e.g. Peer Leader Training by the Bulgarian and Polish Red Cross).

The Croatian Red Cross received support to organise national workshops for Blood Donor animators. These workshops aimed at increasing the number of youth and the first time voluntary blood donors in the country. The Lithuanian Red Cross have made an initiative to start a joint project on HIV/AIDS, TB and Visiting Nurses working in Home Care in co-operation with Russian Red Cross branch in Kaliningrad. The preliminary plans were made in 2002 and the implementation will take place in 2003. The regional Health and Care programme has provided the support to planning phase and will support the implementation in 2003.

The regional Health and Care programme has provided financial support to the National Societies in order to participate in the international conferences. The representatives from Latvian and Slovak Red Cross participated in the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona. The First Aid coordinator of Lithuanian Red Cross took part in the European First Aid Education conference in Malta. The 30th International Conference on Social Welfare in Rotterdam was attended by the representative from the Bulgarian Red Cross.

The financial situation of the regional Health and Care programme varies during the year and it means difficulties in planning and implementation of sustainable programmes. During the unsatisfactory financial situation (the first eight months of the year) several project proposals from the National Societies had to be postponed and canceled. The last quarter experienced the remarkable improvement with additional pledges from Swedish and Danish Red Cross. Fortunately, the part of the received funds could be carried forward in 2003. The improved situation enabled to call new and update postponed proposals from National Societies in the field of Health and Care. The late arrival of the funds could only provide time to plan the projects and the implementation will take place in 2003.

The year 2002 was the first completed period after the regional Health and Care programme was established in 2001. The time has been very busy with heavy workload but constructive. The Health and Care issues in the region are well identified and recognised by the National Societies. Although there was a change of staff the programmes have had a very positive development.

## **Organizational Development w**

The organisational development programme was restructured in the beginning of the year. It integrates the work of its five components: organization development, financial management and resource development, volunteer management, youth development and programme development. The focus was put on two key themes - accountability and effectiveness.

Participatory Community development (PCD), a sort of regional special pilot programme, closely interacted with the health and youth programmes. PCD was evaluated in late autumn and it was recommended that in order to reach better cost-effectiveness, the programme should be revised and made simpler, a process that has recently been started. It seems that interest in this programme is increasing in national societies and also outside of the region.

The delegation did not find an OD co-ordinator, and it used short-term consultants and utilised regional and local resources indifferent parts of the programme.

### **Objective 1 To assist Red Cross societies to develop strategies in line with Strategy 2010.**

Strategic discussions/meetings were held with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungarian, Latvian, Macedonian, Romanian, Slovak and Slovenian national societies. It was agreed with the leadership of the Macedonian Red Cross, that the Federation will handover all of its programmes to the Macedonian RC during the year 2003.

The regional delegation committed to support the Latvian Red Cross Society reorganisation process. It was co-ordinated by the regional development delegate in Riga, and he will continue as a consultant in 2003. The delegation continued to support the financial management project of the Latvian RC and used a consultant from the Icelandic Red Cross. The project continues and will be finalised in 2003. It was agreed with the Slovak Red Cross to start a financial management & resource development project early 2003.

### **Objective 2 To further develop the accountability and effectiveness of the OD programme in its assistance to Red Cross societies**

The delegation established an OD team, including EU Enlargement Officer, Financial Development Co-ordinator, PCD Co-ordinator and Youth Officer, to better co-ordinate support and services to the national societies. The team started interaction at the end of the year.

Europe is facing a crucial moment with the biggest ever enlargement of the EU. The Red Cross is in a unique position being one of the civil societies' few organizations which is deeply rooted in all of the new EU member states as well as the old member states. Many crucial areas in which the RC NSs work are increasingly falling under the responsibility of the EU.

With this in mind, in December 2001 the fifteen National Societies of the EU Member States and the Federation decided that the upcoming EU enlargement offered an opportunity to clarify and decide on the respective functions and structure of the RC/EU Office and the Federation Secretariat. A "think tank" was set up to formulate recommendations to the RC/EU National Societies and the Federation Secretariat on these issues.

Budapest RD and the Brussels RC/EU Office are committed to supporting the EU accession NS in this coming transition period 2003-2004. EU Enlargement will bring challenges and opportunities to the EU accession NS; new funding opportunities, but also more opportunities for enhancing co-operation, and for more partnerships between EU National Societies and EU accession National Societies. The role of the Budapest RD and the Brussels RC/EU office will be to provide support to the EU accession NSs, to prepare them for the challenges and to help to enable them to make the most of the opportunities, which the EU will bring.

The RC NSs of the new accession states have been invited to become observers to the RC/EU Office and will be able to join it in May 2004. The Office works closely with the RD Budapest. The

connection is ensured through the appointment of a focal person in each office. Their specific role is to:

- ✓ provide information and support to the accession NS
- ✓ help accession NSs to develop partnerships with the fifteen EU NSs and where these partnerships already exist, to further strengthen them.

**Objective 3 To improve the ability of Red Cross societies to attract, manage and generate reliable funding for their services and programmes.**

The delegation continued to support the financial management projects in Estonia and Latvia and agreed to start the projects in Macedonia, Romania and Slovakia. The Estonian and Latvian projects are in an implementation phase and will be finalised in 2003.

The delegation helped, using a staff-on-loan consultant from the Finnish Red Cross, the Bosnia and Herzegovinan, Latvian and Slovenian national societies in their resource development (training and coaching in fundraising). The delegation wanted to test short-term consultant agreements and the results were promising. Two other national societies expressed a wish to receive this kind of support in 2003 (Romania, Slovakia).

**Objective 4 To improve the quality of volunteer management in Red Cross societies.**

Building on the very successful achievements of the regional youth programme (establishment of strong and effective regional networks and partnerships, promoting development and increased knowledge sharing), the OD programme will develop and promote a new approach to volunteering and culturally sensitive management systems.

National societies developed strongly their mutual co-operation and for instance, the Lithuanian Red Cross and the Polish Red Cross, and the Polish Red Cross and the Slovak Red Cross signed co-operation agreements in the Partnership meeting in October in Poland, covering several areas of programme co-operation between the societies.

In the area of youth the delegation supported actively the participation of the young volunteers in all the programme areas and special events facilitated by the youth (Hunger Day etc.).

**Objective 5: To improve ability of Red Cross societies to identify the needs of vulnerable people, and to develop effective programmes and partnerships to meet those needs.**

The Participatory Community Development (PCD) programme was initially implemented in Hungary and from 2002 an additional four countries (Macedonia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Poland) joined. As a result of many obstacles the implementation period was extended till mid April 2003. The programme was totally funded by the Norwegian Red Cross with the special agreement that in the chosen communities, local RC branches will include Roma minorities within an integrated approach, underlining the fact that Roma people are one of the most vulnerable peoples in the region.

Originally two proposals were written which were accepted for the Balkan countries (Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Bulgaria) as well as in Central Europe for Hungary and Slovakia. The Slovak Red Cross declined the opportunity to start PCD in Slovakia because of a



lack of strong capacities at local branch level. The Polish Red Cross applied to join the regional PCD programme in April 2002 and they became part of the programme at May 2002.

The PCD training material and manual was designed and translated for those national languages where the PCD was implemented. The training materials are now available in Hungarian, Serbian,

Bulgarian, Macedonian and Polish at the NS. In all communities the local minorities were asked if they needed training material translated and there were no communities where they declined to use the country language. In Poland, local Roma people asked for a translation, but later the PCD co-ordinator found that they do not have written and reading knowledge of Romany language, only oral.

In Hungary from eight communities, six continued the PCD implementation in 2002 plus three new communities joined the national PCD programme. In Bulgaria, Macedonia and Yugoslavia three communities were chosen to start PCD and in Poland two communities applied to implement PCD. All the teams are very multidisciplinary, which based on the local situation, include local governmental people, representatives of local NGOs, local RC workers and volunteers and last but not least vulnerable people of the chosen communities.

In every country a co-ordinator was hired at the National Red Cross except in Macedonia, where based on an agreement between the HoD and the Resource Development delegate, the programme is implemented through the Country Delegation. In Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Macedonia the coordinators have been facilitating PCD from the beginning, while in Hungary and Poland there were personnel changes during the year 2002. Although it is early to say for sure, there is some evidence that in both countries the changes brought new vigor to the programme.

All coordinators were trained for participatory methodologies in a very practical way. The “learning by doing” is a basic way of transferring participatory knowledge within PCD. In all countries the regional PCD co-ordinator facilitated each PRA events (PRA training, Large Group Workshop) one time, then in the other communities the national PCD co-ordinator was responsible for facilitating the workshops.

In order to be able to facilitate PCD in the future all national coordinators participated in a PCD trainer of trainer workshop together with other participants from the region. This training session gave them the opportunity to learn facilitation skills and to plan a workshop in a participatory way. The follow up of the regional PCD ToT was to organise a ToT within their own NS. The Hungarian, Macedonian, Bulgarian, Polish coordinators facilitated ToT in November 2002, the Yugoslav PCD co-ordinator will carry out the ToT in February 2003.

In addition all PCD coordinators participated during 2002, or earlier, in Project Planning Process training or Project Cycle Workshop. As a result of several training sessions, they know how to design and implement a community based programme. It is very important to underline that all the PCD coordinators have knowledge and skills to design and facilitate PCD programme in the future as well as facilitate workshops in a participatory way.

These PCD teams are actively carrying out the needs assessment, designing the Micro Project and implementing and monitoring their project. In Bulgaria each community plan was discussed by a NRC committee, established by HQ. Micro projects were expected to support the community instead of individuals and to be sustainable. The regional PCD co-ordinator let the local teams design their own programme but highly recommended to plan a sustainable micro project.

### **Future Search Conferences**

The aim of expanding partnerships in selected communities between government, NGOs and businesses to improve the communities and the lives of people within them was not met in 2002. As a result of several challenges and programme delays in all countries, the Future Search Conferences will be carried out in February and March 2003.

Based on discussion with experts and available information an Open Space (OP) technology workshop in Poland and Yugoslavia was held. The OP workshops have the same result as the Future Search Conferences and this alternative solution gives an additional opportunity to try FSC and OS in practice and then the PCD implementers can choose which one to go for based on a comparison between investment and effectiveness.

In Bulgaria the national co-ordinator decided not to carry out Future Search Conference. The challenges in Bulgaria are greater at both regional and HQ level as well. The great needs made people

inpatient which could easily lead to conflict as had happened within other programmes. The Bulgarian co-ordinator sees the necessity to carry out FSC or OS workshop in the second round of PCD implementation when communities are benefiting from micro projects. In order to learn new methodologies all the national coordinators have opportunity to visit other FSC or OS conferences.

### **Regional PCD seminar**

Based on the need to establish a network of skilled trainers in PRA and related methodologies, two regional PCD workshops were carried out, one in February 2002 at the beginning of the regional PCD programme implementation and one in January 2003. A Regional PCD Team was established during the year which was officially formed at the last PCD workshop. The regional PCD workshop tried to summarize experiences of the participants and clarify what and how to improve for the future.

Following consideration of the unexpected results and challenges and achievements, PCD is a very well received programme. A PCD programme started in Kosovo, implemented by CRCI centres in a co-operation with RCK and RCKM, showed how to bring together ethnic groups (formerly in conflict with each other). In Bulgaria PCD showed how it was possible to work with different minorities together. In Hungary PCD gave a direction for social activities which are a huge part of HRC's activities. In Poland PCD reached segregated communities like in Maskowitce which is a community with 100 people at the edge of the forest far from any settlement in a fladed area without basic conditions for life in 2002 in Central Europe.

Although the programme was a donor driven regional delegation initiative, today NSs leadership, experts, donor NS are interested to know more about PCD. Local Branches started to integrate participatory methods in social welfare work, especially in Hungary. PCD will take part in the Social Welfare workshop, organised by Regional Health delegate, to introduce a great tool for social welfare programmes. The American RC showed a great interest for PCD and developed their PRA training material based on PCD materials. The Bulgarian PCD co-ordinator proposed participatory methods in other programmes as well.

Following the two years implementation period, the main strengths and areas to develop were clarified. PCD has arrived at the point when Federation support and common policy is needed for further development. Not only the great interest, but great needs make community development and participatory approaches necessary. Community based participatory programmes are a great opportunity for vulnerable communities who are permanently living in poverty dependent on state aid or aid of NGOs.

### **Objective 6. To strengthen Red Cross Societies' youth sections to carry out effective services and programmes that improve the lives of vulnerable young people.**

In 2002 the Regional Youth Development Programme, formerly being a separate programme with its own Appeal document, became an integral part of the Regional delegation's Organisation Development Appeal 2002.

The Programme had begun phasing out, thus its role was redefined and planned activities scaled down. Therefore, the primary focus was on providing already established services and training upon request. This meant that it offered support to the regional youth network, rather than act as an initiator and implementer of new projects. As part of this change process a new position of a Regional Youth Development Officer was established. In order to ensure proper hand over, an overlapping period with the Youth delegate was insured.

Despite the changes the approach of the Programme was still built on regionally available resources, practices and exchange of experiences through a fostered co-operation and networking among National Societies' Youth sections.

In 2002 the co-operation between National Societies youth sections was reinforced through the two common regional awareness campaigns, Hunger day and the Candle March. The campaigns proved to be two of the biggest and most successful events in the Red Cross youth calendar around the region, in

the sense of raising public awareness, attracting media and possible donors to helping the most vulnerable and raising the Red Cross image.

During the reported period all of the established communication services of the Regional Youth Development Programme were continuously provided: maintenance of the regional e-mail groups; regular updating of the Regional Youth Roster; updating of the Web site ([www.ifrccee.org/youth](http://www.ifrccee.org/youth)). Two more e-mail groups were established for the participants of this years' Advanced Training Course and 6th Central European Youth Conference. Therefore, new platforms for information, knowledge and experiences exchange have been created and are actively used, mainly discussing the implementation of the awareness campaign and future activities.

Youth sections are inviting each other to various activities, in line with the "Common Statement", especially summer international camps. One of the biggest international camps took place in Montenegro, organised by the Yugoslav Red Cross in co-operation with International Federation's country delegation, based in Belgrade. All these activities provided youth sections in the region with an excellent opportunity to share experiences, knowledge, approaches and to learn from each other while working. In 2001, more than 90 people took part in exchanged programmes within the framework of the "Common Statement" and in 2002 the number was even higher (130 people).

One of the best known activities throughout the region is the "Krajenka Song Festival", an activity organised by the Polish Red Cross youth, that is a brilliant way of promoting humanitarian values and co-operation between countries. The programme also showed the support to this kind of activities by assuring the prize for the best Red Cross song and encouraging other youth sections to take an active part in this event and therefore really try and turn it into a regional event.

A conference in December created an excellent opportunity for the youth representatives from the region to establish better co-operation with other sister National Societies, such as British, German and Swiss Red Cross, as well as with other NGOs, like Global Network of People living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+) and EU/RC Office in Brussels. Many co-operation agreements between National Societies were signed, as well as Common Statement. There was also an unanimous decision made that youth in the region wants to work closer to the GNP+, meaning that at every youth peer education about HIV/AIDS a young person affected with HIV would attend. That would give an additional component to the training, while talking about stigma and discrimination from his/her own experiences and bringing these two terms into every day life.

Preparations for the launch of the global HIV/AIDS campaign implementation in Central Europe began in co-operation with the Regional Communications Unit and the Regional Health Programme in the beginning of the year. With the support from the delegation, some youth sections in the region carried out activities on the 8th May in accordance with the Federations' campaign against HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination "The truth about AIDS. Pass it on..." However the biggest activities took place on 1st December, when ten countries and 93 local branches all together, carried out the second regional awareness campaign, known as Candle March. Youth again took the most active role in preparing the activities on HIV/AIDS prevention, workshops, round tables, TV and radio shows, activities in schools and public places and of course candle march, which in most cases took place in country capitals. The evaluation of this event on the conference and lectures on the topic of AIDS, showed the participants from within the region that activities are successful, but, there is always room for improvement. One of the improvements is the already mentioned closer co-operation with GNP+ and other active organisations in the field of HIV/AIDS.

After all the introductions and information sharing about the regional awareness campaign "Hunger day" done previously this year in close collaboration with Regional Communications Unit, there were three days dedicated to the Advanced Training Course and Workshop, held in August at Balaton lake, Hungary. In these three days, people were actively sharing lessons learned and best practices among those who are already running campaigns and the ones who will be implementing them for the first time. Taking part in the campaign was an additional requirement added in order to participate in the training. Ten countries applied, being devoted to raising the public awareness concerning hunger, malnutrition and all side affect. The respective National Societies' youth representatives, had to

prepare an exact action plan concerning the activities, being later carried out in accordance to “Hunger day.”

Besides utilising the knowledge and the skills gained at the training, participants were immediately given a chance to “test” this knowledge in practice. Therefore, National Societies gained a person, who, when coming home can act as a national campaign co-ordinator. Also, half of the job was done, meaning that this workshop provided the opportunity to prepare all the plans, while at home focus could be put on the real actions.

One of the main points in the campaign was working with media and strengthening/building new relations with media, raising public awareness and promoting Red Cross actions, as well as improving the image of the Movement, therefore this sort of a training was more than welcomed.

The evaluation of the campaigns was made at the conference in December, where both campaigns showed to be a true Red Cross activities that are while helping the most vulnerable raising public awareness about this topics and image of the Organisation as such. There has been an interest shown from other countries as well to implement the campaigns in the following year, which means that twice per year we could really have a Red Cross “Youth” days with big actions., well accepted by everybody in the society.

All the developed tools to improve national societies’ access to capacity building resources, are available through our youth website ([www.ifrccee.org/youth](http://www.ifrccee.org/youth)), such as CAPI Youth 1 and 2 (Customised Assessment and Performance Indicators) – a tool that can be utilised in self-assessment processes of the youth sections, while we are here to provide or conduct a training or give advice and share our experiences, upon certain youth section request. Preparation has been started in co-operation with Bosnia and Herzegovina Youth of the Training for Trainers, which was later postponed due to justified reasons.

It seems that National Society youth sections are showing higher initiative in co-operating with other countries and exchanging experiences. Therefore activities of youth sections are more oriented towards inviting other representatives to observe them at their work, which has also a better response from media, while the activity is getting international profile. That was the case in Poland, where the story about Krajenka, was published the following week on the Federations’ website, not to mention the campaigns which occupied many newspapers, The Bridge and web sites. That is one more proof, that we are stronger and more effective, if we work together.

The Programme is planning to support youth sections further in their efforts for better co-operation with others, as well as contribute to their strengthening the capacities of youth sections and therefore National Societies as such as well.

### **Regional Cooperation w**

A dominant factor in the regional co-operation has been the sub-regional approach. In the main programmes the “big picture” is the same, coming from the Strategy 2010, but the implementation of the programmes has been carried out mainly through sub-regional meetings and workshops.

National societies have initiated their own mutual co-operation agreements and exchange of experiences and best practices has increased substantially. Some of the regions’ national societies have signed new co-operation agreements (Lithuanian Red Cross-Polish Red Cross, Polish Red Cross-Slovak-Red Cross, Macedonian Red Cross-Slovenian Red Cross).

**Objective 1 To contribute to the production of regional assistance strategy (RAS) that will be the regional, long-term (3-5 years) framework for co-operation and partnership in central Europe based on regional realities and needs within the framework of Strategy 2010 and the Federation global priorities.**

The objectives of the co-operation have been changed since the appeal was written. The regional assistance strategy (RAS) was put on hold in the previous partnership meeting, and instead of it the

co-operation between the NSs has been mainly sub-regional and bilateral. The compilation and analysis of necessary information was made and has created a strong knowledge base for all the programmes and capacity building work in the region. The NSs did not find a justified base for the regional assistance strategy, but the analysis material was used as a base for programme planning.

**Objective 2 To develop together with those national societies concerned the “second generation” of country assistance strategies in central Europe.**

The objective is to build the commitment of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement to a shared strategy that will strengthen the impact of national societies ‘work on improving the lives of vulnerable people.’ This ‘new generation’ is seen to be a more effective coordination tool and a resource mobilization tool.

Instead of putting efforts to achieve this objective several CAS-related processes were started (FRY, Macedonia) and MoU’s and bilateral agreements signed (as written in connection with the OD Programme). This indicated strongly that the federation’s support has to be tailored for different needs and that a common strategy or approach for all is not functioning.

**Objective 3 To support the reinforcement of regional exchange, co-operation and networking.**

The various regional fora, which are supported by the regional delegation, are important in promoting and enhancing regional co-operation among the national societies in the region. In the past year these included the Balkan Conference, the Central Europe Forum for Cooperation, the Nordic-Baltic partnership, ERNA, the European First Aid Network, PERCO and the involvement of the national societies in the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe. Refer to the sections on Disaster Preparedness and Health and Care for more analysis of the role these fora played in reinforcing regional exchange.

In addition to these planned activities, the past year has also seen natural disasters, which have also been an opportunity for regional exchange. The floods which hit Central Europe should be highlighted as a notable case of this co-operation and networking between national societies in the region. As well as cash and in kind donations, expertise was also shared and it is hoped that in future years, and in future disasters this can be built upon.

**Objective 4 To build national societies confidence in working as a Federation and establish a strong Red Cross network between all parts of the Movement in Central Europe, based on the need to share knowledge and experiences.**

The regional delegation provided a regional platform for national societies participation and to strengthen relationships between themselves. The Partnership Meeting has become an annual co-operation scene. The NSs of the region, main donor societies, the ICRC and the Federation Secretariat’s representatives met in October in Warsaw. Twenty five national societies, Secretariat staff members, representatives from ERNA and the EU Red Cross Office in Brussels exchanged experiences and ideas during two full days. The Polish Red Cross hosted the event and almost all the NSs present had given their input on the agenda of the meeting beforehand.

The themes of the meeting, raised by the national societies were the strategy for Europe, HIV/AIDS, migration, volunteering in Red Cross, EU accession and its impacts, resource development, lessons learnt about the flood operations and youth. The ICRC updated the participants on its latest developments. In the meeting two bilateral co-operation agreements were signed. The Slovak Red Cross volunteered to host the next meeting in 2003 in Bratislava.

**Objective 5 To support the preparations for national societies to enter the EU and to benefit from its co-operation.**

Special arrangements have been discussed and agreed with the EU Red Cross Office in Brussels regarding EU enlargement. Ten of the thirteen EU candidate states are in central Europe. The position of the EU enlargement officer was established and filled. She collected basic data about the “accession national societies” and encouraged the NSs to appoint a focal point for EU matters. All the

NSs have done this. An action plan for the year 2003 was produced together with the EU Red Cross office and Europe Department in November. The process of sharing information with the concerned national societies and supporting them in their needs commenced.

### **Coordination and Management w**

At the end of 2002 the regional delegation comprised a total of 15 (+3) regionally/locally recruited staff, one staff-on-loan for the youth programme and 7 (-6) delegates. One of the delegates is based in Zagreb for the Population Movement, working in BiH, Croatia and FRY. One of the staff members is working sub-regionally in BiH for Disaster Preparedness and Response. These changes show that the region can provide highly competent staff for the regional and sub-regional needs.

Since June 2002, the rest of the country delegations/offices (Belgrade and Pristina) have reported to Budapest. The Macedonia Delegation was changed to a country representative office in January and the BiH Delegation to a country representative office in June. The delegation staff was reduced and presently there is one expatriate delegate (Federation Representative) and three local staff members.

#### **Objective 1 To develop improved mechanisms for efficient coordination and management of the regional delegation vis a vis country delegations and national societies within the region.**

Active dialogue and consultations between the RD and national societies, country delegations and offices and the ICRC has secured an update information about plans and activities in the region. Quarterly delegate meetings (office weeks in Budapest), minimum bi-monthly meetings with the ICRC, and various regional and sub-regional programme workshops have been the main tools in coordination. The regional delegation's programme coordinators meet biweekly and share the information about their workshops and meetings with national societies. In terms of practical assistance to the Ns in the region, special mention must be made of the Stability Pact for Disaster Preparedness Prevention Initiative. This is a significant move forward in terms of building regional preparedness in the event of disasters .

The Head of Regional Delegation visited eleven national societies of the region during his first nine months and met the leadership and key staff members of the societies. A part of the visits were directly related to actual governance and management issues. HoRD has also maintained contacts with UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, IOM and EU in the region.

The regional delegation produced four editions of the Bridge magazine, which has shown its strength in the sharing of actual programme and background information in the region.

#### **Objective 2 Provide cost effective technical services to support all programme managers in national societies, country delegations and in bilateral Red Cross offices operating within the region.**

The regional finance unit (RFU), regional planning and reporting unit (PRU) and the regional logistics unit (RLU) provided professional support to country delegations/offices and national societies. The long term results of the RLU closure due to lack of funding and the decision to decentralize logistics services to country delegations/offices in the autumn will be seen in the future.

The capacity in financial management and reporting, and in activity reporting has been developed in the region. The PRU produced a comprehensive training package in reporting with four workshops for national societies presenting the Federation range of tools to be used to inform and report in the event of disasters. These will be facilitated early in 2003.

The RFU has coached and trained the country delegations/offices finance staff in all relevant matters and changes in the reporting and systems.

*For further details please contact: Penny Elghady; Phone : 41 22 Phone number 730 43 19; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: Elghady@ifrc.org*

*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at **<http://www.ifrc.org>**.*

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES**

Interim report	
Annual report	X
Final report	

**Appeal No & title: 01.42/2002 Budapest regional**

**Period: year 2002**

**Project(s): P66160, 66507, 66601, 66902, 66903, 66906, 66909, 66914, 66915, 66916, 66918, 66919, 66926, 75500**

**Currency: CHF**

**I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL**

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Comments	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	7,727,140				
less					
Cash brought forward	1,861,403				
<b>TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT</b>	<b>5,865,737</b>				
<b>Contributions from Donors</b>					
American Red Cross (DNUS)	35,227				35,227
Australian Red Cross (DNAU)	21,478				21,478
British Red Cross # 1 (DNGB01)	43,684				43,684
British Red Cross (DNGB)	48,842				48,842
Canadian Red Cross (DNCA)	27,467				27,467
Danish Red Cross # 1 (DNKD01)	89,956				89,956
Danish Red Cross (DNKD)	59,167				59,167
DFID - British Government (DFID)	303,539				303,539
DFID 3- British Government (DFID03)	337,888				337,888
Donor - Capacity Building Fund (DCBF)	121,000				121,000
Donor - Unidentified (D000)	-182,766				-182,766
ECHO/BALKANS 1999/DE6084 (DE6084)	65,346				65,346
Finnish Red Cross (DNFI)	167,202				167,202
German Red Cross (DNDE)	1,597				1,597
Icelandic Red Cross (DNIS)	1,988				1,988
Irish Red Cross (DNIE)	7,404				7,404
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	2,125				2,125
Luxemburg Govt.via Luxemburg Red Cro (DGNLU)	6,115				6,115
Netherlands Govt.via Netherlands RC (DGNL)	2,400				2,400
Netherlands Red Cross # 1 (DNNL01)	79,416				79,416
Netherlands Red Cross (DNNL)	221,175				221,175
Norwegian Govt.via Norcross Grant No (DGNN01)	178,650				178,650
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNN02)	77,087				77,087
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNN03)	57,815				57,815
Norwegian Red Cross - Ex Yugo (DNNO2)	19,854				19,854
Norwegian Red Cross Bosnia contract (DNNO3)	29,775				29,775
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO1)	19,850				19,850
Private Donors-online donations (DPOLD)	1,000				1,000
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross # (DGNSE1)	117,938				117,938
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross # (DGNSE2)	67,778				67,778
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross (DGNSE)	82,884				82,884
Swedish Red Cross (DNSE)	67,000				67,000
United States - Private Donors (DPUS)	2,398				2,398
AUSTRALIA			11,006		11,006
DENMARK			47,500		47,500
FINLAND			24,805		24,805
GREAT BRITAIN			84,928		84,928
ICELAND			1,150		1,150
NORWAY			59,959		59,959
SWEDEN			87,063		87,063
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,182,280</b>		<b>316,411</b>		<b>2,498,691</b>

**II - Balance of funds**

OPENING	1,861,403
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	2,182,280
CASH EXPENDITURE	-2,632,244
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<b>CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>1,411,439</b>

**Appeal No & title: 01.42/2002 Budapest regional**

Period: year 2002

Project(s): P66160, 66507, 66601, 66902, 66903, 66906, 66909, 66914, 66915, 66916, 66918, 66919, 66926, 75500

Currency: CHF

**III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures**

Description	APPEAL Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction	90,000	4,308			4,308	85,692
Clothing & Textiles	10,000	2,793			2,793	7,207
Food & Seeds	5,000					5,000
Water & sanitation	50,000					50,000
Medical & First Aid	54,000	28,127			28,127	25,873
Teaching materials	95,000	534			534	94,466
Utensils & Tools						
Other relief supplies	601,000	42,466			42,466	558,534
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>905,000</b>	<b>78,228</b>			<b>78,228</b>	<b>826,772</b>
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles		4,118			4,118	-4,118
Computers & Telecom equip.	34,400	67,425			67,425	-33,025
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures	24,900	3,962			3,962	20,938
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>59,300</b>	<b>75,505</b>			<b>75,505</b>	<b>-16,205</b>
<u>TRANSPORT &amp; STORAGE</u>						
	363,156	-66,574			-66,574	429,730
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>363,156</b>	<b>-66,574</b>			<b>-66,574</b>	<b>429,730</b>
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	1,509,390	656,369		316,411	972,780	536,610
Personnel (national staff)	1,304,284	419,399			419,399	884,885
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>2,813,674</b>	<b>1,075,768</b>		<b>316,411</b>	<b>1,392,179</b>	<b>1,421,495</b>
<u>GENERAL &amp; ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts	221,800	6,655			6,655	215,145
Travel & related expenses	529,320	134,969			134,969	394,351
Information expenses	565,795	220,152			220,152	345,643
Admin./general expenses	576,760	196,671			196,671	380,089
External workshops & Seminars	842,350	365,086			365,086	477,264
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>2,736,025</b>	<b>923,534</b>			<b>923,534</b>	<b>1,812,491</b>
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>						
Programme management	521,041	177,502			177,502	343,539
Technical services	155,972	53,145			53,145	102,828
Professional services	172,972	58,954			58,954	114,018
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>849,985</b>	<b>289,600</b>			<b>289,600</b>	<b>560,385</b>
Operational provisions		256,182			256,182	-256,182
Transfers to National Societies						
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>7,727,140</b>	<b>2,632,244</b>		<b>316,411</b>	<b>2,948,655</b>	<b>4,778,485</b>