

Appeal 2003-2004



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

CENTRAL EUROPE REGION

Appeal no. 01.76/2003

Click on programme title or figures to go to the text or budget

	2003 (In CHF)	2004 ² (In CHF)
1. Health and Care	724,952	350,000
2. Disaster Management	1,309,039	500,000
3. Organizational Development	1,524,791	550,000
4. Humanitarian Values	384,021	0
5. Federation Coordination	145,427	0
Total	4,088,229¹	1,400,000

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, through its Regional Delegation in Budapest (established in 1992), supports and assists the following Red Cross National Societies: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM), Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Introduction

The 15 countries of Central Europe share many common historical elements and problems in terms of political, economic and social development. Economic transition continues to have a detrimental effect on life in Central Europe, requiring continuous changes and challenges, especially for specific vulnerable population groups such as the elderly, women, children, the disabled, minorities and a large number of unemployed persons. As countries restructure themselves for a free market, and reforms are implemented to provide a brighter future, the day-to-day struggle of millions of people to make ends meet intensifies. Vulnerable groups continue to be marginalized by social disruption, and diminished health and social services are failing them.

Chronic homelessness and unemployment, growing abuse of alcohol and drugs, ever larger numbers of disadvantaged children, increased incidence of tuberculosis, and the nutritional consequences of poverty reflect the social situation. Poor nutrition among children is of great concern to Red Cross National Societies who warn of the inability of impoverished families across the region to feed their children properly. Reports of poorly fed youngsters fainting at school, or showing other signs of undernourishment, have become commonplace. In Poland alone some 1.5 million children are said to

¹ USD 2,804,581 or EUR 2,778,207.

² These are preliminary budget figures for 2004, and are subject to revision.

be affected and more than 36 per cent of the population (almost 14 million people) are living in what its Central Bureau of Statistics labels as bad or very poor conditions.

Central Europe stands at a pivotal moment in its development in which the Red Cross has a leading role to play. Its values and principles will be essential in the years to come to act and speak for those who have no voice, and to assist the vulnerable and the marginalised who can still be found in all countries of the region. **Key Indicators for Central Europe - Year 2000**

Countries	Total Population (million)	Population Growth (%)	Life Expectancy at Birth (years)	Gross National Income per capita (USD)	Urban Population (% of total population)
Albania	3.41	0.82	73.99	1'120	42.30
Bosnia Herzegovina	3.97	2.65	73.33	1'230	42.96
Bulgaria	8.17	-0.50	71.55	1'520	67.46
Croatia	4.38	0.13	73.28	4'620	57.72
Czech	10.27	-0.05	74.82	5'250	74.50
Estonia	1.37	-1.28	70.60	3'580	69.39
Hungary	10.21	-0.46	71.25	4'710	64.55
Latvia	2.37	-1.59	70.38	2'920	60.44
Lithuania	3.51	-0.11	72.62	2'930	68.51
FYRoM	2.03	0.69	72.80	1'820	59.40
Poland	38.65	-0.01	73.28	4'190	62.35
Romania	22.44	-0.10	69.86	1'690	55.08
Slovakia	1.99	0.12	73.28	3'700	57.42
Slovenia	5.40	0.13	73.05	10'070	49.19
FRY	10.64	0.07	72.46	-	51.58
Sub total	129				

SOURCE: WWW.DEVDATA.WORLDBANK.ORG

Regional Strategy

Following an initial focus on supporting operations issuing from conflict in the Balkan region, the Regional Delegation has shifted its main focus, over the past decade, to capacity building work with the National Societies in the Central Europe region. During 2002, this capacity building support for National Societies was provided through the four core areas as outlined in Strategy 2010: disaster response and preparedness, health and care and humanitarian values, as well as through the regional organisation development programme, encompassing organisation, resource and financial development, participatory community development and youth activities.

As the external environment continues to change, so do the strategic directions the Federation is following in Central Europe. With eight countries in Central Europe on the road to EU accession, possibly as early as 2004, the regional delegation will be assisting the National Societies in these countries to prepare themselves for the consequences of this EU enlargement process and the opportunities it holds. These developments should also open up new opportunities and models for partnership with sister National Societies in Central Europe who are not expected to join the EU at this first accession point.

In line with the Federation Change Strategy and the Europe Implementation Plan, the regional delegation has also seen the closing of the Budapest regional finance unit and regional logistics unit in the second half of 2002. A new Europe-wide finance unit and reporting unit are being set up in Ankara, and a new Europe-wide Communications Unit will be set up, though its location is yet to be decided. The more stabilised situation in the Balkan region is also allowing the Federation to reduce its physical presence on the country level and to focus on the coordination of support, services and networking opportunities from the regional delegation, in response to National Society demands.

Until 2004 the Federation will maintain one country delegation in FRY, as well as offices in Kosovo, in Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Zagreb regional population movement programme office is planning to exit by the end of 2003.

National Society Priorities

Against this challenging political, economic and social environment, National Societies are constantly reviewing their roles and activities to establish themselves in civil society, with a clear mandate, defined responsibilities, and priorities in an increasingly competitive non-profit sector. Their priorities focus on comprehensive capacity building in institutional, resource and financial development with disaster preparedness, social welfare and health, youth and communications closely linked. At the Regional Conference of European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies held in Berlin in April 2002, the Berlin Charter was adopted, and the National Societies committed themselves to implement the Plans of Action on Migration and Health. Building also on the Federation's Strategy 2010, National Societies are reviewing and updating their national strategies and plans, and requesting support in the core areas from the regional delegation.

National Societies are looking at possibilities for longer term sustainability for their programmes within their own countries and local communities, although the opportunities available obviously reflect economic development in a particular country. For some this means a more diversified funding basis, whilst others are heavily reliant on traditional government and partner National Society sources.

The European Union's enlargement process gives a new challenge to the region. Eight of the region's 15 countries are negotiating membership in the European Union (EU), and some may see membership materialize in 2004-05. Although the consequences and opportunities of an enlarged EU for the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement are not easy to predict, it is clear that National Societies will have new opportunities for collaboration and funding. The regional delegation will assist the National Societies in securing the opportunities that the EU enlargement will bring through consultation on planning and applications for funding.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Priorities

There are many partnerships of National Societies in the Central Europe region - between National Societies within the region, and also with National Societies outside the region, especially with National Societies of Western Europe, owing to very close proximity, and indeed some are neighbours and share common borders. There are many long standing bilateral partnerships, and also bigger groupings, such as the Nordic Baltic Workplan, which is a partnership of eight National Societies: the Danish, Estonian, Finnish, Icelandic, Latvian, Lithuanian, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies. Some partner National Societies provide support to Central Europe National Societies (multilaterally) through the Federation appeals, and others are working very much bilaterally. There are also forums of the Central Europe National Societies such as the Balkans Conference and Central Europe Forum for Cooperation, which meet together to discuss their shared priorities.

The ICRC has a regional delegation for Central Europe in Budapest, and also country delegations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The main activities of the ICRC in the region include the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law, also support to National Societies in the areas of tracing (especially related to the files of the missing in the Balkans), mines awareness and conflict preparedness. There is very close cooperation between the regional delegations of the Federation and ICRC, and each year several jointly hosted workshops and meetings are held in the region.

Priority Programmes for Secretariat Assistance

The general role of the Federation as “serving leader” will focus on facilitating the development process of the National Societies by building their capacities and providing technical support in programme areas.

In line with Strategy 2010’s commitment to responsive and focussed programmes, the regional focus of Appeal 2003-2004 will be disaster response, disaster preparedness, health and care, humanitarian values, organizational development and regional cooperation. Together they work towards the same worthwhile goal:

To improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity

The efficiency and effectiveness of the Federation’s work and assistance correlates directly with the willingness and capacity to promote open and transparent cooperation based on an agreed strategy, to respect and follow the priorities set by the National Societies, and with the ability to work together using existing resources and structures. Duplication and parallel systems and structures are more often than not perceived as wasting resources by partner entities.

The regional delegation is aiming at increasing the dialogue between the many bilateral National Societies operational in the region, and in a common effort at facilitating the possible integration of their activities within the strategic priorities of the Central Europe National Societies.

The regional delegation is providing a platform and forum for National Societies. Long term partnership and cooperation agreements between National Societies, the Federation Secretariat, the ICRC and external partners such as the European Union and United Nations agencies will be improved. Through this process National Societies will contribute to external knowledge sharing as well as generate resources for more effective programming. Increased advocacy for Red Cross National Societies work and its role in civil society as well as for Red Cross activities in specific areas is currently being effectively carried out but should be increased.

About this Appeal

<u>Health and Care</u>	Contribute to further improvements in the overall health and social situation in Central Europe.
<u>Disaster Management</u>	Participate in the development of an effective and efficient level of assistance to victims of disaster - man made and natural - in the Central Europe region.
<u>Humanitarian Values</u>	Contribute to the creation of greater community concern for the most vulnerable in Central Europe.
<u>Organisational Development</u>	Strengthen the capacities and the sustainability of National Societies to effectively meet the needs of vulnerable people
<u>Regional Coordination</u>	The National Societies in the region have a well functioning network of partners, sensitive to their needs and priorities, that support them in implementing quality programmes that serve the vulnerable groups in the region.
<u>International Representation</u>	The National Societies in the region form effective partnerships and alliances to respond to the needs of the vulnerable, promoting their interests at national, regional and international levels, mobilising support for their activities and development.

This regional 2003 appeal is the logical continuation of long-term programmes, and takes into account the achievements of previous years and the lessons learned. It is a two-year plan of action based on priorities outlined by Red Cross National Societies in central Europe. The fulfillment of the goals and

objectives of this appeal will increase the operational capacities of National Societies, improving assistance to those who are the most vulnerable.

1. Health and Care w [*<Click here to return to the title page>*](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The quality of life of many vulnerable groups in the Central Europe region continues to deteriorate. Less government funding is available to meet health and social care needs, while the elderly are often neglected by state medical and health services. Meanwhile, youth are especially hard hit by unemployment at the same time as their health is increasingly at risk from sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS), the rising use of drugs, cigarettes and alcohol. In 2001, Central and Eastern Europe has witnessed the fastest global growth of the HIV epidemic. The statistics in 2001 (WHO) pointed out that the most rapid increase of newly diagnosed HIV infections is in Estonia (e.g. 12 infections per million population in 1999, 1067 infections per million population in 2001). The rapid increase has been caused by a dramatic rise in risk behaviour, predominantly injecting drug use, which is itself related to the social and economic shifts which many countries in the region are experiencing. Epidemics of traditional diseases (tuberculosis, measles) are re-emerging.

The Central Europe regional Health and Care programme was established in 2001. The programme assists the 15 Red Cross societies in Central Europe with capacity building, linking together with partners and promoting Health and Care issues. The aim is to strengthen National Societies in the region so that they are able to promote the health and well-being of vulnerable individuals and communities.

The mapping (through questionnaires and assessment visits) of the 15 Red Cross societies in the field of Health and Care was carried out. Analysis of the mapping showed that the main areas of work were first aid, social welfare and voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation. The analysis also pointed out that many National Societies had an interest in further capacity building in the field of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis control and psychological support.

The National Societies in the region continue to struggle with the dilemma of meeting the expectations of the population in terms of health and social welfare and trying to break away from some traditional and currently irrelevant activities. The National Societies in the region are also aware of the increased trend of communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, measles) and use of intravenous drugs. There is an increased interest in networking and sharing experiences within National Societies, e.g. workshops on voluntary non-remunerated blood donation and psychological support, held in 2002. The methods and recent research on drug related harm reduction were introduced to the National Societies in 2002.

The strategies for the health and care programme being developed in the region will be based on global Federation policies and guidelines (Strategy 2010; Federation policies on health, First Aid, social welfare, essential drugs and medical supplies, quality provision in blood services and the strategy for community health; and the conclusions of the Berlin Conference of 2002). The regional health and care programme will also consider the priorities expressed by the National Societies in the region. This work on supporting national health strategy development will involve the National Societies from the respective sub-regions, partner National Societies working in the region as well as consultation with partners (Ministries of Health and Ministries of Social Welfare, WHO Europe, UNAIDS, ICRC and other actors working with health and care issues in the community).

Linkages and interactions are to be reinforced with the components of First Aid, psychological support, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and safe blood supply. Co-operation and links between the regional health and care programme and other regional programmes are also crucial. One main goal within the health and care programme is to increase awareness and to advocate for vulnerable populations. As many of the activities are carried out by youth, the activities in the branches can be

strengthened with improved volunteer management, supported by the organizational development programme.

The regional health and care programme will continue to actively advise and support the Federation country delegations and offices in health and care areas.

The role and mandate of the Red Cross National Societies need to be better defined in the field of Health and Care. The National Societies are working on being recognized by the governmental/local authorities as effective partners.

Advocacy and promotion of humanitarian values within the field of Health and Care is to be more visible and effective. Public awareness in the four above mentioned areas will be increased through organisation of regional campaigns (against stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS; on behalf of the elderly and socially marginalized groups) but also national or local campaigns (First Aid campaigns, voluntary non-remunerated blood donor recruitment promotion). These campaigns are prepared in close collaboration with the communications programme, and with concerned networks and youth sections.

Strong networks and active participation will be in place by the end of 2004. All 15 National Societies in Central Europe will become members of ERNA (European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Network on HIV/AIDS & TB) by the end of year 2003. Regional training will be organized, National Societies' health representatives are expected to attend international conferences. Exchange programmes and cross regional visits between the Central Europe National Societies are and will continue to be encouraged, increasing knowledge and experience sharing, as well as for a better use of the resources and expertise available in the region.

Overall Goal

Contribute to further improvements in the overall health and social situation in Central Europe.

Programme Objective

To contribute to the establishment of effective and targeted national Red Cross health and care programmes that lead to reduced vulnerability to disease and accidents as well as addressing social exclusion through participation.

Expected results:

- The role and mandate of the Red Cross National Societies will have been better defined in the field of Health and Care. The National Societies will be recognised by the governmental/local authorities as effective partners.
- Capacity of the National Societies in the region to deliver effective and sustainable HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis prevention programmes will have been improved. Advocacy of humanitarian values will have been increased, reducing the stigma of people living with HIV/AIDS..
- Social welfare programmes will have been improved to better meet human needs and to ensure a better promotion and awareness of the well-being of the population, especially the vulnerable groups in the community.
- First Aid programmes in the region will have been improved and their sustainability increased. A community based First Aid approach including psychological support and health promotion components will have been developed and integrated in the First Aid Training.
- Capacity of National Societies in the region to promote voluntary non-remunerated blood donor recruitment will have been improved, with the aim of contributing to safe blood supply.
- As a long-term effect, a change of attitudes, especially young people, will have resulted in a safer health behaviour (intravenous drug use, sexual behaviour, commercial sex workers, safe blood supply, etc).

2. Disaster Management w [<Click here to return to the title page>](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

In the countries of Central Europe a number of disaster risks threaten the lives of the population, from floods and landslides to forest fires and earthquakes. However, countries in the south of the region are still coping with the consequences of conflict and the population movement issues it has raised.

Disaster Preparedness

A great need exists for developing appropriate disaster preparedness plans in the region especially as flooding is a regular occurrence, affecting - in the best case scenarios - limited areas within countries. Flooding often occurs across borders creating a regional disaster affecting large numbers of people as illustrated by the massive flooding of Central Europe during the summer of 2002. The Red Cross National Societies have shown their competency and skills in dealing with such situations on the spot. However, better coordination both inside the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement and with different governmental organisations needs to be reinforced. The experience and lessons learnt from this disaster clearly show the need for developing a comprehensive overall disaster preparedness (DP) plan for the region. Ten out of 15 countries in the region have an overall DP plan. Fewer countries have developed contingency plans related to actual risks in the country, although some are currently being developed. Almost all National Societies in the region are trying to include conflict preparedness into their plans. This is an area of close cooperation with the ICRC Regional Delegation in Budapest.

In disaster preparedness the key actor is the national government. Each Red Cross National Society must find a clearly defined role for itself within national DP planning. Active support has been provided through the participation in the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) to National Societies in being recognised by their governments. All National Societies in the region have started discussions with their respective governments regarding the future role of the Red Cross in national DP Plans, although discussions are far from finalised.

It is important that DP planning adopts a community based approach involving communities in disaster preparedness, increasing their ability and coping mechanisms if disaster strikes. Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) has been used with six National Societies to date as a starting point to adopt a more community based approach. The Regional Delegation intends to continue to support these efforts over the coming years.

The regional approach in the Disaster Preparedness Programme aims to reinforce networking to establish a learning environment for the National Societies, focusing on strategic planning, skills building as well as technical support, through regional and country workshops. A series of workshops held in 2002 on contingency planning, the appeal process and conflict preparedness has reinforced this initiative, creating a strong and effective DP network in the region with the involvement of members/volunteers at a national level. Networking is a key element in better utilisation of disaster response capacities in the region. In the southern part of the region the networking is functioning well. The National Societies know each other very well and have proven the effectiveness of this network, taking the initiative regarding coordination and support in times of disaster, and operating as an effective regional team. Special attention is given to the southern sub-region through the DP office based in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This office also enables special attention to be provided to the DP programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The regional DP programme is proceeding well according to initial plans (appeal 2002-3), thanks to generous contributions from donors but also because of the willingness and commitment from the National Societies in the region to prioritise this core area in their planning and programming. Much, however, remains to be done; to strengthen the use of standards in responding to disasters and to reinforce the resource mobilisation process. A regional disaster preparedness framework based on regional needs, opportunities and threats, and specific roles and responsibilities of National Societies in the area of disaster preparedness has been outlined and is being further developed. A disaster response unit at the regional delegation has been established and is working on a computerised regional data base covering available staff and volunteers, vehicles under Federation control, warehouses and stocks, and suppliers.

Population Movement (PM)

With normalisation occurring and being inter-linked (and superseded) by European integration, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Croatia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) are on the road towards a closer relationship with the European Union. Minority return is accelerating in the sub-region. The year 2001 heralded a marked increase in the number of minority returns in BiH. The accelerated and encouraging rate of return has continued in 2002. Returns are now taking place throughout the country. Altogether UNHCR estimates that some 850,000 refugees and displaced persons have returned to their homes in Bosnia and Herzegovina since the Dayton Agreement was signed, of whom 300,000 were minorities. In addition, more than 93,000 Croatian Serbs have returned to their homes in Croatia. By the end of 2003, it is hoped that the majority of the displaced people will have either returned to their homes, or will have found an alternative solution through local integration.

Meanwhile Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are becoming transit and, in the longer term, destination countries for asylum-seekers and refugees from other parts of the world, in search of protection in Europe.

BiH, Croatia, and FRY are at different stages in the process of drafting and adopting national legislation on asylum in accordance with European and international standards, and preparing to receive and accommodate asylum-seekers through an asylum process. Through the eventual recognition of the countries as 'safe third countries' by the EU, the number of asylum applications will increase significantly.

During 2002 the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH), the Croatian Red Cross, and the Yugoslav Red Cross have been actively involved in population movement activities, including providing assistance to returnees and beginning the process of developing their respective roles in the field of asylum, supported by the Federation. These activities were developed and implemented in close cooperation in the sub-region as well as with major in-country stakeholders such as the respective Governments, UNHCR, IOM and the NGO community. The respective National Societies made significant progress towards a sound legal base in the field of displacement including asylum, effective networking in the sub-region and in the respective countries.

Through the series of PM grass-root workshops (four in each country) attended by some 75 per cent of the Red Cross branches in the three countries, capacity has been created for the Red Cross branches to respond to displacement related emergencies in their own right. Similarly an expert meeting on asylum took place in Zagreb gathering not only the three National Societies but National Societies from across Europe to share experience and methodology in this field. The cross-border info community points established in Croatia and Serbia have contributed to the so-called durable solution to the refugee question in the sub-region by enabling direct and personalised access to information to the refugee caseload and to reconciliation. Through community mobilisation re-integration of returnees and integration of refugees has been facilitated.

It is expected that the return process in the sub-region will be transformed by the end of 2003, whereby local actors will take over while international involvement is likely to decrease. This in turn will require strategic positioning of the respective National Societies. Having this in mind, it would be of importance that the Federation contributes to this process by concrete support and advocacy on behalf of the National Society programmes implemented. It is important furthermore, especially in BiH, that the capacity of the National Society is further enhanced and strategically positioned. At the same time, the recognition of the need for the three National Societies increasing involvement with asylum-seekers is gaining momentum. Hence continued assistance in policy and guidance in this relatively unveiled field for the Red Cross in the region will be required. It should be noted though, that the Federation plans to exit from the programme during the second half of 2003 and hand it over fully to the National Societies.

Overall Goal

Participate in the development of an effective and efficient level of assistance to victims of disaster - man made and natural - in the Central Europe region.

Programme Objective and Expected Results

Programme Objective

To enhance the capacity and the know-how of the National Societies in the region to respond to disasters, and to provide assistance to displaced persons including asylum seekers through programming interventions.

Expected Result(s)

Disaster Preparedness

- By the end of 2003, all National Societies in the region will have designed Disaster Preparedness plans within their respective national contexts which will outline:
 - I. a well functioning and realistic Disaster Preparedness organisation;
 - II. partnership with government;
 - III. co-operation with other organisations (NGOs);
 - IV. methods to carry out basic needs and vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) in a disaster situation;
 - V. knowledge of how to respond in a disaster situation following the minimum standards developed by the Sphere Project;
 - VI. established channels for mobilisation of international assistance where local capacity is inadequate
- By the end of 2003, a regional disaster preparedness and response framework will be in place based on regional needs, opportunities and threats, outlining the specific roles and responsibilities of National Societies. Disaster response mechanisms will be in place at the Budapest regional delegation enabling it to be ready for efficient action. By the end of 2003, the computerised regional database will have been established to track regional resources in case of a disaster.

Population Movement

- The respective National Societies (Croatia, FRY, BiH) will have maintained well-functioning population movement units, recognized and acknowledged by major stakeholders, integrated into the National Society organigram and strategic plan with a sound supporting asylum policy and legal base in the field of displacement.
- An Asylum-Handbook/ manual for Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in Europe will have been prepared and shared in a participatory manner through consultation with European National Societies.
- The cross-border information points will have been providing direct / personalised answers to the refugee caseload and community mobilisation activities are assisting in re-integration in Croatia or integration in Serbia. The grass-root volunteers info-network in priority areas in Croatia, BiH, and FRY will continue to provide outreach and referrals to the refugee/returnees caseload. The three Red Cross mobile social integration teams in BiH will have made some 4,800 interventions for the returnees with a focus on minority returnees and up to 15 per cent of the local vulnerable population.
- The sustainability of programmes will have been reflected by mainstreaming, positioning and advocacy.
- The public awareness activities will have increased the profile of the National Societies and will have helped to influence the thinking of the community and increased tolerance, and thus contributed to civil society
- The Red Cross structures in Kosovo are trained in issues pertinent to displacement.

3. Organisational Development w [*<Click here to return to the title page>*](#)

National Societies in the Central Europe region are confronted with two main challenges. Firstly, they are coping with new and increasing needs among the population and, secondly, responding to profound, legal, political and economic changes.

The Federation's regional delegation for Central Europe has been supporting the 15 National Societies to manage this difficult transition. Since 1999, the main focus of the ID/RD programme was to support organizational change in the region's National Societies, with the Federation delegation acting as a catalyst and coordinator of the change process. In 2001-2002 the OD programmes has been concentrating on assisting National Societies to create strategies in compliance with Strategy 2010, providing training in the 'Project Planning Process' and piloting innovative approaches to programme and community development at branch level. These components were successfully implemented and attracted considerable donor interest. The financial management development programme was started in 2001 and continued in 2002 providing support to National Societies striving to make their financial management systems more transparent and effective. The OD programme has also provided support in the field of Resource Development to some of the National Societies in the region, on a project basis.

Building on the results of the work carried out in 2002 and lessons learned, the regional OD programme for 2003-2004 will focus on being more accountable and receptive to the needs of National Societies. As a result, National Societies will be better able to meet the growing needs of vulnerable people, while the regional delegation will become more responsive to the needs of National Societies.

This challenge will be met through a long term, systematic approach that integrates the work of its five components: organisation development (strategic planning), financial and resource development, branch and community based programmes, youth and volunteer management.

The OD programme will be instrumental in assisting National Societies to strengthen every organizational level - from the branch to headquarters and board - providing staff with the skills required to make National Societies more effective and accountable in a world of complex, constant change. As part of the holistic approach to strengthening National Societies, the OD staff will work in teams with the personnel from the regional delegation and country delegations. The regional delegation will consult, support and offer training services in core areas, such as governance and management development, strategic planning, project planning, reporting, financial systems, resource development, especially fundraising and human resources.

This "regional team" will include key personnel from National Societies and partners, with consultants contracted as needed. This is in accordance with the new Federation approach to working which emphasises utilising skills available in the region more widely.

To support the preparation for National Societies to enter the EU and to benefit from its cooperation, a new staff member has been recruited to act as a focal point for EU enlargement issues in Central Europe. This position has been discussed and agreed with the EU Red Cross office in Brussels. The EU enlargement officer will work in close collaboration with the Brussels office and provide National Societies with both information, contacts and briefings in the form of workshops and guidance into partnership with present EU National Societies.

Youth Development Programme

The programme continues to maintain the already established Central Europe youth network and to provide services, knowledge and other support to the National Society youth sections upon request.

The programme is based on the well established "learning from each other" approach, to strengthen capacities of the youth sections on a national and local level. Providing opportunities to implement this sort of approach, two yearly meetings of all youth sections in the region are organized, an annual Regional Youth Conference which at the same time serves as an evaluation of the regional youth development programme (RYDP), and an 'Advanced Training Course and Workshop', acting as a platform for exchanging knowledge and experience.

To ensure continuity of information between National Society youth sections various communication tools such as e-mail groups, the regional web site (www.ifrcce.org/youth) are updated on a regular basis. The activities of the RYDP, such as preparing and facilitating regional meetings, providing training support and know-how to different National Societies, participating in the planning and evaluation process of the programme, are also tasks of the self managed advisory and support group - the International Trainers Team - an example of effective utilisation of capacities, knowledge and expertise in the region.

With advocacy a key focus of regional delegation work in Central Europe, the programme is involved in awareness campaigns. Two such campaigns are being organised - one is a 'Hunger Day' campaign and the other is in accordance to the campaign initiated by the Secretariat addressing the stigma and discrimination of HIV/AIDS affected people. The National Societies youth sections are playing a leading role in both campaigns.

To ensure the best results for the National Societies youth sections and National Societies themselves, the regional programme is working in close collaboration with other regional Federation programmes, especially with the Communications programme, the Disaster Preparedness programme and the Health and Care Programme.

National Society youth section representatives have been actively involved in all aspects of regional work during 2002. However, they still express the need for further training, skills and knowledge sharing, as well as support from the regional delegation. The programme will continue in 2003 on a project-by-project basis utilising the existing skills of the regional youth network and coordinated by a youth programme coordinator at the regional delegation.

Participatory Community Development

The Participatory Community Development (PCD) pilot programme (formerly known as the 'PRA project') was initiated in September 2000 by the regional delegation in cooperation with the Hungarian Red Cross, as part of the Regional Resource Development Programme. The success of the pilot project has attracted valuable donor support, and has allowed it to be expanded into a regional programme, that has been replicated in Bulgaria, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Poland and also expanded in Hungary. The PCD has become a grassroots branch development tool, which can have a positive impact on National Society programmes and image.

As a result of the two year implementation period, the regional programme is now shifting towards a more 'hands-off' approach. A regional team of facilitators has been established, which will be actively involved in the implementation and replication of the PCD programme in the region. The expertise available will be better used in the region reinforcing the PCD network and increasing the knowledge and experience sharing. More responsibilities in the management of the programmes will be handed over to the respective National Societies including funding and donor relationships. The regional delegation is and will continue to support National Societies with a standard PCD training and implementation package. In cooperation with the communication, planning and reporting delegates, several regional training sessions will be organised to strengthen National Societies capacity.

This programme mainly focuses on supporting National Societies, at branch and community level, in their efforts to advocate for socially marginalised people (eg, disabled, Roma) at both international and local levels. This advocacy component will be reinforced in the future, providing local branches with a strong tool to respond to new challenges in the communities. A PCD review is to be carried out in November 2002 to evaluate the process, the tools developed, and to look into programme sustainability, and in its possible expansion in the region. The findings will be available by January 2003.

Overall Goal

Strengthen the capacities and the sustainability of National Societies to effectively meet the needs of vulnerable people.

Programme Objective and expected results

Project objective

To support and promote good governance and effective management of skills within National Societies and to strengthen programme management capabilities in line with the Strategy 2010.

Expected results

- National Societies will have been committed to a strategy development process.
- Red Cross staff skills and capacity will have been reinforced in planning, project management and reporting areas.
- Financial transparency and accountability will have benefited the National Societies in the region and will have resulted in increased confidence from donors and other Red Cross partners. The ability of Red Cross societies to attract, manage and generate reliable funding for their programmes will have been increased.
- Development of strong National Society branches as the key to National Societies' ability to respond to the needs of the vulnerable will have been fostered. Through Participatory Community Development Projects, and strong National Society integrated Youth sections, greater knowledge of the vulnerable and their needs within local communities will have been gained by the stakeholders. Communities will have been better involved in Red Cross projects and it will have resulted in increased partnerships within communities. Volunteer management will have been improved, and the volunteer expert network will have been developed.
- Stronger regional networks and learning from each other will have been developed; a regional pool of expertise will have been developed for mutual sharing and learning on the best practices between societies across the region.
- A clear Red Cross role related to vulnerable people in civil society will have been defined.
- National Societies from EU accession states will have been prepared to enter the EU. Contact and partnerships will have been created and developed. Adequate provision of guidance and training will have been provided.

4. Humanitarian Values W [<Click here to return to the title page>](#)

Background and achievements/lessons to date

Red Cross response to Central Europe's burgeoning social needs illustrate humanitarian values and principles that are part of the basic rights to which everyone is entitled. These same human values serve as conflict prevention tools, especially in regions, like Central Europe, with ethnic minorities and socio-economic problems, xenophobia and discrimination are growing amid the disruption.

The need for promotion of these values is self-evident but by doing so in the context of specific Red Cross activity and concern, the promotion can be an influential factor in changing behaviour at community level and a contribution to the building of healthy civil society.

Advocacy and promotion of humanitarian values run through all regional delegation and National Society programmes, from resource development, especially in public and media relations, and social marketing, to disaster preparedness and prevention. In cooperation with the ICRC, the disaster preparedness programme is alerting communities in the region to the dangers of inter-ethnic conflict before it erupts in violence, promoting diversity and tolerance and fostering conflict resolution. Red Cross youth programmes also embrace promotion of humanitarian values.

Impact depends upon effective communication, and the regional communications programme implements the philosophy in its public profiling of National Society activity, specifically related in 2003 to health and care in the community, social marginalisation and disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Creating a better understanding of Red Cross work and preoccupations, it continues its programmes to improve the communications capacity of National Societies, and, with the ICRC, is developing further its seminars for journalists, nurturing stronger, more professional coverage of humanitarian issues.

The National Societies in Central Europe have varied fortunes with the media. Over the past two years some have found themselves in confrontation with journalists feeding on issues of integrity and what the media construed as mismanagement. Others endure partial media indifference. A few - due to the handful of professional National Society communicators in the region - enjoy very good media relations, and some branches excel while their headquarters fail. But if the principles and values upon which the Red Cross is established are to be disseminated successfully, far greater public respect for, and awareness of, the National Societies must be acquired. Far greater efforts must be made to obtain public profile for National Society programmes, while building National Society communications capacity.

Enduring acute shortages of both human and financial resources are major obstacles to National Societies reaching their full potential. The communications programme is working closely with organizational and resource development, and with the regional Health and Care and Disaster Response and Preparedness programmes. Through close coordination and cooperation with other regional delegation programmes, particularly in training and in advocacy, communications can be established as an active component of all that National Societies do.

Particular focus in 2003 will be placed on strengthening communication capacity in Poland, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. These three National Societies have requested assistance from the regional communications programme in developing strategy and plans of action. In Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the communication delegate will work as part of the country delegation and Federation office teams.

To support the regional delegation's efforts, more emphasis is being placed on Red Cross media. *The Bridge* quarterly publication underwent a major revamp and redesign in 2001, as a practical capacity building tool for far wider distribution within National Societies. It is being offered to the National Societies in their own languages, and national editions are being encouraged, the regional delegation is seeking to broaden readership to encompass governance, management, staff and volunteers from headquarters to distant branch level. Hungary and Poland already have their own editions.

The regional delegation's web site has also undergone expansion and is becoming the region's major information resource. With *The Bridge*, it is encouraging National Society networking, evidenced by an ever greater information flow to Budapest regional delegation from National Societies. The web site links visitors to both the Federation's Geneva site and National Society sites, and actively promotes them.

The communications programme is increasing the editorial services it provides to National Societies. Already it packages information from National Societies into finished products for international exposure, and feeds all Federation media with it. These efforts will grow, particularly in maximizing web site opportunity. Where National Societies are unable to operate their own sites, they can be accommodated by the regional programme, as the site of the European Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (ERNA) has been.

Overall Goal

Contribute to the creation of greater community concern for the most vulnerable in Central Europe.

Programme Objective and Expected Results

Programme Objective

To support National Societies in developing high and positive profiles and in raising awareness of the humanitarian values and principles they reflect.

Expected Results

- National Societies will have emerged as prominent actors in the strengthening of civil society, seen to respond to unmet social needs of the most vulnerable, and rapidly mobilising when natural disaster occurs to mitigate the suffering of victims, with well functioning and effective communications services supported by governance and management.
- Promotion of the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values will have been an intrinsic part of all communication activities but National Societies will have also been provided with specific opportunity to enhance the level of understanding of the Movement.
- The media will have begun to perceive the Red Cross as a natural ally, a reliable source of independent information on humanitarian issues. Humanitarian reporting in the region will have gained ground and many young journalists schooled in ethics and journalistic responsibility.
- The Red Cross will have been established as a prime source of information relating to all natural and man-made disasters in Central Europe, through fast response and the provision of breaking news, eye-witness accounts and assessments of need for media, donors and the humanitarian world. Information emergency teams will have been in a constant state of readiness to respond to disaster, ensuring a Red Cross information flow from outset to end of emergency, and into post-emergency operations.
- The Red Cross advocacy will have placed key social and health issues on national agendas, and contributed to a change of mindset and behaviour for the public good. So doing, National Societies will have acquired greater profile and standing.

5. Regional Coordination W [<Click here to return to the title page>](#)

The Federation Secretariat in Geneva has undertaken a restructuring process aimed at improving the organisation and structure necessary to implement Strategy 2010. This alignment has had an impact in the regions. New ways of working were explored in view of being ready to integrate the change process at the regional and national level.

Regional coordination is based on the third strategic direction of Strategy 2010: "to work together effectively through programme coordination, long term partnership and funding as well as more active advocacy".

With an increased number of partners (partner National Societies (PNSs) active in the region, external agencies, NGOs and other authorities), the regional delegation has a key role to play in supporting better coordination of support to National Societies and in identifying National Society priorities for assistance. There is a need to lead the members of the Movement to agree on common objectives, criteria and methodologies that are firmly based on National Society development plans.

Building on feedback from the PNS Coordination project conducted in 2000 and 2001 and discussions at annual partnership meetings, the regional delegation in Budapest will be working to adapt its role in coordinating Movement support and assistance to the National Societies in the region. Increased National Society participation and ownership will be promoted through the process of building on National Societies strategies, priorities and needs as well as the legitimate interests and commitments of partner societies, enabling the Movement to use resources more efficiently and responsibly, bringing maximum impact to vulnerable groups in Central Europe.

Work on the Regional Assistance Strategy (RAS) was put on hold following the Partnership Meeting in 2001 and in response to National Society wishes. The region, as was initially grouped when the regional delegation was established in 1992, has been questioned as the most appropriate grouping given current political, economic and social developments. New models working on a sub-regional basis are being explored building on successes such as in the Baltic sub-region supported by the

Nordic-Baltic Workplan. With EU enlargement, the previous distinction between east and western European PNS / ONS is irrelevant and new models of cooperation and partnership are emerging.

The work of the Secretariat in developing the Europe Implementation Plan and the impact this has on the function and role of the regional delegation in Budapest have also led to a revisiting of the issue of RAS and Cooperation Agreement Strategies (CAS) in the region. 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. This “new CAS generation” is seen to be a more effective coordination and resource mobilisation tool. In 2003, in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the country delegation will facilitate a CAS process involving all partners supporting Yugoslav Red Cross, ensuring that support of all partners will be aligned to the long term strategy of the National Society.

Technical cooperation in all areas of each regional programme will also be promoted in various regional workshops, exchange of experience, networks (Youth, DM, PCD, Communication, Health). Resources available in the region are increasingly being used in the process of developing these regional networks.

A strong Red Cross network between all parts of the Movement in Central Europe is to be established, providing a regional platform for National Societies participation and strengthening relationships between themselves. The objective is to build National Societies confidence in working as a Federation. The regional delegation will continue to support the organisation of Partnership Meetings on an annual basis. For the first time, in 2002, the meeting was hosted by the Polish Red Cross, a country in the region where the Federation has no permanent presence. This initiative was appreciated and well supported by participants. National Societies from the region are increasingly taking ownership of this forum. Slovakia Red Cross has offered to host the 2003 Partnership meeting in Bratislava.

A regional human resource function will continue to support country delegations and offices with human resource and delegate recruitment issues. It will also coordinate the regional recruitment programme and the channeling of Basic Training Course requests for National Society and Federation personnel. The regional roster of potential delegates continues to grow, with some staff who have completed missions returning to the region to reinvest their experience and skills for the benefit of the Movement in Central Europe. The regional recruitment of delegates and staff has been very successful in this region. Red Cross colleagues from the region know the region and the opportunities and limitations that exist. Their input into regional initiatives and operations is extremely valuable. This regional programme will continue to ensure an effective and efficient use of skills and expertise, through the improved management of human resources. Where demand outstrips capacity, the regional delegation is coordinating the recruitment of expatriate delegates to ensure an appropriate balance of skills and resources in its delegations and offices.

Overall Goal

The National Societies in the region have a well functioning network of partners, sensitive to their needs and priorities that support them in implementing quality programmes that serve the vulnerable groups in the region.

Project Objective and Expected Results

Project Objective

To continue to promote regional internal cooperation between National Societies and other components of the Movement, as well as developing and strengthening partnerships with other institutions.

Expected Results:

- The coordination between National Societies and partner societies will have been improved in quality and in quantity. Joint activities in planning and technical cooperation will have taken place on a regular basis.

- Well functioning partnership agreements are in place and adhered to between sister National Societies.
- Regional resources are efficiently and effectively utilised to respond to regional needs.

6. International Representation

The regional delegation is actively supporting the reinforcement of regional exchange, cooperation and networking. Important in promoting and enhancing increased regional cooperation among the National Societies in the region are the various regional fora, to which assistance is provided by the Budapest regional delegation. These includes ERNA, the European First Aid Network, PERCO, the Balkans Conference, the Central Europe Forum for Cooperation, the Nordic Baltic Plan, OSCE, Black Sea Economic Cooperation, and the involvement of the National Societies in the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe.

The National Societies in the region, supported by the Regional Delegation are establishing a structured dialogue with their respective governments to further define the role of the Red Cross domestically and explore opportunities for support from the government to enable the National Society to play this role.

The regional delegation is continuing to develop its contacts with the regional development bodies, development banks, governments, donor missions, EU and UN agencies and other key NGOs and to investigate the potential for cooperation between the Red Cross and relevant regional or sub-regional organisations. It will also encourage sponsorship and direct contacts with the National Societies to increase and build partnership with corporate, governmental and non governmental organisations.

The regional delegation has a vital role to play in harnessing media and government support for the values and principles our National Societies are promoting through their programmes and community interventions. Contacts are used to drive home messages from advocacy and awareness campaigns conducted through the regional programmes, particularly involving the health, youth and communications programmes. The regional delegation will continue, together with the National Societies, to promote and further develop activities and contacts on significant events during the year, such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent day, the launch of the Federation World Disaster Report, First Aid Day, Hunger Day, World HIV/AIDS Day, Volunteering Day, as well as Emergency Appeals or awareness campaigns to mobilise support.

Overall Goal

The National Societies in Central Europe, supported by the Federation regional delegation, form effective partnerships and alliances to respond to the needs of the vulnerable, promoting their interests at national, regional and international levels, and mobilising support for their activities and development.

Project Objective and Expected Results

Project Objective

To position the National Societies in civil society as respected providers of services to and advocates for the vulnerable.

Expected Results

- The profile of the Federation and the National Societies in the region is enhanced and their advocacy messages are reflected by the reactions from governments, the media and civil society.
- The National Societies of the region are voicing the main concerns of the vulnerable within the four core areas of the Strategy 2010, as a basis for building advocacy initiatives at the regional and international levels.
- The image of the International Federation will be better known, understood and recognised for its added value on all Red Cross key priorities and advocacy issues in all regional fora, through the promotion and the development of new partnerships.

- Relevant documentation will have been regularly disseminated to our partners and be easily accessible on the website.

7. Field Management programme

Background and achievements to date

The Regional Delegation in Budapest was established in 1992 and covers the following 15 countries in Central Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Because of the humanitarian needs in the Balkans, the Federation will maintain a Federation presence in three countries: three offices (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo) and one country delegation in Belgrade (FRY). In 2002 the Federation has been substantially scaling down its country delegations in FRY and Bosnia and Herzegovina, to a limited number of key staff.. All the country delegations and offices report to the Budapest regional delegation, which is overall responsible for the management and coordination of all Federation Secretariat support in the region.

The Federation exit strategy in countries in the region will continue following agreed time frames and plans:

- Albania office will be closed by December 2002 (the delegation closed at the end of 2001)
- Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: the delegation will be closed towards the end of 2004
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: the office will be closed by the end of 2003
- Owing to the humanitarian needs in Bosnia and Kosovo, it is too early to plan any further down-sizing of Federation presence at the present time.

The regional delegation, already active, will have to play an increasingly important role in the future in providing technical support to these National Societies.

The regional delegation has also had two decentralised sub-regional offices: the regional population movement programme office based in Zagreb, and the Baltic OD regional coordination office based in Riga. The office in Riga is to be closed by the end of 2002. The population movement programme office will be phasing out in September 2003.

The Regional Delegation in November 2002 comprises a total of 22 people (6 delegates, 1 consultant and 15 locally recruited staff). This year has been one of change for the regional delegation. The change strategy of the Secretariat will continue to be implemented. Europe-wide units will be established; a Europe-wide Finance Unit (from November 2002) and a Europe-wide Reporting Unit (from April 2003), both in Ankara, and a Europe-wide Communications Unit (location to be decided). In Budapest, the Regional Logistics Unit closed in August 2002, and the Regional Finance Unit, Regional Planning & Reporting Unit, and Regional Communications Unit will all close by the end of 2002.

The new core regional structure will continue to operate with technical delegates specialised in each of the core areas of Strategy 2010, and regional and local expertise will be used in the areas of human resources, reporting, logistics and finance, decreasing the number of delegates to four/five persons.

Overall Goal

Ensure efficient coordination and technical support of the regional delegation to the programme implementation and capacity building of the National Societies, to improve programme delivery and services benefiting vulnerable people in Central Europe.

Project Objective and Expected Results

Programme Objective

To contribute to the regionalisation process initiated by the Secretariat and to provide cost effective technical support to National Societies, country offices and delegations, as well as to the bilateral partners societies operating within the region.

Expected results

- Consistent, effective and timely support will have been provided to National Societies, country delegations and offices, through well established and functioning regional services.
- Ownership of regional programmes by National Societies in the region will have been increased through the effective involvement and participation of National Societies.
- A coordination mechanism for National Societies in the region will have been agreed for large relief operations (lessons learned from the Central Europe Floods of 2002), and the use of regional teams will have been optimised.

<Budget below - [Click here to return to the title page](#)>

BUDGET 2003

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.76/2003

Name: Central Europe Regional Programmes

PROGRAMME:	Organisational Development	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Federation Coordination	International Representation	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teaching materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	460,000	0	220,400	0	0	0	680,400
SUPPLIES	460,000	0	220,400	0	0	0	680,400
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	13,800	1,150	6,750	0	0	0	21,700
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	13,800	1,150	6,750	0	0	0	21,700
Warehouse & Distribution	0	0	30,000	0	0	0	30,000
Transport & Vehicules	33,080	16,680	81,160	0	0	0	130,920
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	33,080	16,680	111,160	0	0	0	160,920
Programme Support	99,111	47,122	85,088	24,961	9,453	0	265,734
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	99,111	47,122	85,088	24,961	9,453	0	265,734
Personnel-delegates	144,000	144,000	256,500	158,400	0	0	702,899
Personnel-national staff	175,020	9,000	218,300	20,780	40,584	0	463,684
Consultants	108,600	35,450	34,400	3,000	0	0	181,450
PERSONNEL	427,620	188,450	509,200	182,180	40,584	0	1,348,033
W/shops & Training	409,390	165,000	213,730	10,580	41,000	0	839,700
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	409,390	165,000	213,730	10,580	41,000	0	839,700
Travel & related expenses	57,200	197,450	55,500	27,200	19,390	0	356,740
Information	5,970	102,200	35,000	119,000	35,000	0	297,170
Other General costs	18,620	6,900	72,211	20,100	0	0	117,831
GENERAL EXPENSES	81,790	306,550	162,711	166,300	54,390	0	771,741
TOTAL BUDGET:	1,524,791	724,952	1,309,039	384,021	145,427	0	4,088,229