

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

01 July 2004

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 over 181 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 01.73/04; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 01 January to 30 June, 2004; Appeal coverage: 94.2%; ([click here to go directly to the Contributions List](#)).

Appeal target: CHF 1,091,103 (USD 873,575 or EUR 718,170);

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Bosnia and Herzegovina Annual Appeal 2004. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/017304.pdf

Central Europe Regional Programmes Annual Appeal 2004. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/017504.pdf

Bosnia and Herzegovina Floods Emergency Appeal No. 11/2004. For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/1104.pdf

Programme summary: The International Federation has been working on National Society (NS) capacity building and provided continued support to the activities of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina within the Federation's four core areas (Health & Care, Disaster Preparedness and Response, and Humanitarian Values). In April, the Federation launched an Emergency Appeal (see above) aimed to assist the population affected by floods.

The RCSBiH signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent and started a joint project with the Italian Non-Governmental Organization "Amici dei Bambini".

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

The authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) speeded up the reforms, required under the European Commission's Feasibility Study, before undertaking negotiations toward a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with European Union (EU). A significant progress was made in: Defence Reform (state Ministry and joint Army command have been established and substantial downsizing of military personnel carried out), Fiscal Reform (an Independent Taxation Administration on state level was created), Rule of Law (a single High Judiciary Prosecution Council was established) and Intelligence Reform. Much more has to be done in creating a single economic space in BiH, improving the business environment and resolving the internal debt problem and remaining obstacles to the Education reform. Since the High representative imposed a decision on the City of Mostar, certain progress has been made towards the permanent reunification of that city.

According to the latest United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) statistics 7, 413 returns were recorded in the first four months of 2004, bringing the total to 992, 416 refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who have returned to their pre-war homes since the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement. There are still 320,844 internally displaced persons within Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as 22, 440 refugees and 501 asylum seekers. A stable progress has been made towards completion of the property repossession, as more than 99% of the first instance decisions have been issued so far.

In the first half of 2004, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH) engaged in numerous activities. The NS leadership lobbied the authorities in order to finally solve the problem of Red Cross Law. The NS representatives attended various international meetings/workshops and marked the World Red Cross Day by launching a campaign aimed at promoting voluntary blood donation. Its staff and volunteers reacted promptly during the floods and the RCSBiH distributed food and hygiene parcels, blankets, second-hand clothes, jerry cans and plastic sheeting from its emergency stocks to the most affected population. Following an International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) workshop, seven RCSBiH staff became trainers for Tracing Service and their main role is to organise training for 45 teams involved in the second phase of the "Ante mortem data base" campaign, aimed at assisting in the identification process of missing persons.

The Swiss and Spanish Red Cross, as two partner National Societies present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, continue with their programmes in the areas of health and care and organisational development. The Swiss Red Cross is based in Tuzla, while Spanish Red Cross has its main office in Trebinje. With the extension of its Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CABAC) project to Gorazde and Srbinje, it opened a Field Office in Gorazde.

The International Federation responded quickly to the request of RCSBiH to provide urgent assistance to the population affected by the floods in April. The emergency appeal was launched on 20 April in order to assist 8,412 of the poorest and most-affected flood victims. From the funds received as a response to the appeal, 8,412 hygiene parcels, 1,800 food parcels and 2,200 liters of disinfectants were purchased and distributed during May. According to the criteria, the selected beneficiaries are elderly (60 and over) living alone, families with children under eight years, female-headed households, disabled, homeless, returnees and IDPs.

Health and care

Goal: Sufficient resources for quality services to home care beneficiaries are provided and high quality health activities are offered to the population by the RCSBiH.

Objective: The technical and organisational capacity of the RCSBiH to provide high quality home care services, first aid skills and promote voluntary blood donation and healthier lifestyle is enhanced.

Expected results

- The needs of home care beneficiaries are met;
- Increased funding by government at different levels;

- The RCSBiH has: increased the number of voluntary blood donors; significantly improved first aid skills; and raised public awareness on substance abuse, TB, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

Progress/Achievements

During the reporting period, RCSBiH activists distributed 2,000 hygiene parcels and 80,000 diapers to the Home Care programme (HCP) beneficiaries and continued to provide basic services for 10,000 most vulnerable elderly. There are more examples on the branch level where Red Cross tries to secure local funding for the HCP. In Orasje, the local Red Cross Secretary managed to get support from the authorities, local companies and institutions for 150 old people living alone without any income. In Srbinje, Red Cross has been running a pilot project with support of the Spanish Red Cross. Ten Red Cross Youth members and ten HCP activists (including a medical doctor, nurses and a social worker) provide medical assistance, hygiene and food items, firewood and social contacts for 130 beneficiaries. The Spanish Red Cross secured funds for 2 years and it is expected that in that period the local branch will be able to make the project sustainable.

In the beginning of this year, the RCSBiH distributed 9,000 hygiene parcels to the Home Care beneficiaries, returnees and other vulnerable categories, as well as 7,000 baby sets donated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The same donor, in co-operation with the Wheel Chair Foundation from the USA, donated 500 wheelchairs to the RCSBiH in April. The RCSBiH, through its network of branches, distributed the wheelchairs to Home Care beneficiaries and other disabled persons in need of such kind of assistance.

The Red Cross Youth in Sarajevo Canton and Mostar took part in the road safety campaign organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior on 7 April, the World Health Day. The aim of the campaign was to influence the behavior of drivers and check their knowledge about the First Aid (FA) and usage of the FA kit from their vehicles, in order to reduce the number of deaths and permanent injuries sustained in traffic accidents, as only in Sarajevo Canton 6,120 accidents were recorded in the course of 2003, with 1204 injured and 32 deaths.

On the occasion of the 8th of May (World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day), the RCSBiH launched a campaign named "Donated blood - saved life" aimed at promoting voluntary non-remunerated blood donation. As part of the campaign, posters, leaflets and Red Cross stamps were printed and a press conference was organised in Sarajevo at the day of the launch. Most of the branches organised round tables, promotion activities, blood drives and gatherings of blood donors. Special emphasis was placed on recruiting more donors among young people, particularly in final classes of high schools and universities. On 11 May, which was marked as a Blood donors' day in Republika Srpska, the RCRS leadership was received by the Entity Minister of Health, where possibilities for further promotion of blood donation, motivation, recruitment and retention of blood donors were discussed.

For the second consecutive year, the RCSBiH sent its team to the European First Aid Competition. The RCSBiH winner of the second nation-wide FA competition, a team from Doboja accompanied by RCSBiH staff, took part in the XVII European FA Competition that was held in Salzburg between 10-13 June and won the 23rd place.

The Red Cross Secretaries from Tuzla and Banja Luka, together with their Red Cross Youth First Aid teams, attended the International First Aid Convention that was held in Subotica, Serbia between 06-09 May. This Convention consisted of the FA competition and round table and its aim was to strengthen co-operation among various NS in First Aid, to exchange experience and to create a uniform doctrine. The main topics discussed at the round table were:

- bleeding and First Aid,
- grips and techniques for transportation of injured persons,
- evaluation of the FA judge lists concerning the efficiency and objectivity of judging the FA competition.

Apart from RCSBiH representatives and several branches from Serbia and Montenegro, there were representatives from the NSs of Hungary, Great Britain, Italy, Austria, Norway, Switzerland, Slovenia, Croatia and Macedonia.

In April, the Swiss Red Cross finished its 22-month long project in LRC Gorazde, providing food items necessary for the running of the Red Cross soup kitchen, where meals were prepared for displaced persons and most vulnerable local population. Its activities in the community development programme, for the persons accommodated

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in the refugee camp Mihatovici near Tuzla, were carried out in the reporting period. This long-term programme will be completed at the end of July, 2004.

The Spanish Red Cross continued to implement activities related to public health education and psycho-social activities in the Eastern Herzegovina Region and Red Cross branches in Gorazde (Bosnia-Podrinje Canton) and Srbinje (Old Herzegovina region). In Trebinje, 38 primary school teachers, 44 high school teachers and 6 Red Cross Youth volunteers are involved in the activities with the children, while in other 5 municipalities of the Eastern Herzegovina 78 teachers and 1,941 children are involved in the programme. In addition, 30 teachers from Gorazde and Srbinje work with their pupils divided in groups of 20 children (some 1,200 kids in those two municipalities benefit from this programme). The Spanish Red Cross is planning to expand those activities to Stolac and Capljina municipalities in Herzegovina-Neretva Canton. It has started with preparatory works and those municipalities will be included in the programme in September.

Constraints

The main reason for the limited progress in transformation of the RCSBiH's Home Care programme is the very slow economic recovery of the country, which reflects a very high percentage of poor people in need of such assistance and insufficient support provided by the Entity governments for that purpose.

Disaster Management/Population Movement

Goal: Vulnerability of communities in six priority regions of minority return is reduced.

Objective: Vulnerability-focused programmes and advocacy on behalf of minority returnees and asylum seekers are led and managed by the RCSBiH.

Expected results

- Six mobile social integration teams will have made 6,000 interventions in a community-based manner for returnees;
- The role of the RCSBiH in the field of asylum is defined and recognised by the Government and other stakeholders.

Progress/Achievements

As envisaged in the plan of activities for this year, the RCSBiH established two more mobile socio-integration teams within the Population Movement (PM) programme. Those teams became operational in February 2004 and were based in Gorazde (covering Bosnia-Podrinje Canton) and Srbinje (Old Herzegovina Region). Together with four mobile teams established in the beginning of 2003 (covering Tuzla and Herzeg-Bosnia Cantons and Birac and Doboje Regions), the new teams provide various kinds of assistance to the vulnerable returnees, ranging from distribution of relief items to cutting of firewood to in-house help. Owing to the good co-operation established with the UNHCR offices during the implementation of the PM programme in the last two years, the Red Cross mobile teams received various relief items from the UNHCR field offices. During the floods in April, the teams in Doboje Region and Tuzla Canton were involved in evacuation and assistance to the flood victims and with the consent of the UNHCR, distributed the following items donated as a support to the people affected with the floods: 180 blankets, 276 mattresses, 600 m² of plastic sheeting, 35 jerry cans and 200 pieces of soap.

According to the reports available from the field, the number of visits carried out by all six teams is shown in the table below:

Team	Month	January	February	March	April	May	Total
Doboj		46	63	120	118	100	447
Birac		27	52	69	104	83	335
Tuzla		185	208	202	208	214	1017
Glamoc		19	116	135	N/A	N/A	270
Gorazde		-	17	33	32	32	114
Srbinje/Foca		-	15	31	33	26	105
Total per month		277	471	590	495	455	2288

Two Red Cross mobile teams that were established for a 2.5-month period in Una Sana Canton and Prijedor Region successfully completed their work in mid-January. During that period, they distributed 4,000 welcome parcels, 1,000 kitchen sets, 100 stoves and 525 m3 of firewood to the poorest minority returnees and local vulnerable population.

A bilateral project with Swedish Red Cross - "Info-network for Asylum Seekers from BiH" - has been implemented without serious impediments. Three RCSBiH staff involved in the project developed, in co-operation with their counterparts from Sweden, a very useful and efficient system of information gathering, which will help the Red Cross in informing and preparing rejected asylum seekers from Bosnia and Herzegovina currently staying in Sweden for their return to BiH.

With the financial support of the German Red Cross, the RCSBiH established two Internet Centres for Youth training and gathering. The aim of the project is:

- to provide basic knowledge in Information Technology as a precondition for future education,
- to create conditions for the Youth to have communication with the whole world via Internet,
- gathering of the Youth.

The Centres have been opened in Red Cross branches in Novi Grad (Sarajevo Canton) and Petrovo (Doboj Region). Initially, the idea was to establish those centres in municipalities with the highest number of returnees. In the end, the main criterion was the number of mine victims.

Constraints

Unlike the assistance to the returnees, where activities are implemented according to the plan, the RCSBiH is lagging behind in developing an asylum policy and defining its role in the fight against trafficking in human beings. The lagging is mainly due to the extremely complicated structure of the NS and the rather "sensitive" environment for the Red Cross, where authorities still don't show much understanding for the problem.

Organisational Development

Goal: The capacity of the RCSBiH to meet humanitarian needs and empower the most vulnerable populations in BiH is enhanced.

Objective: The RCSBiH is more functional and efficient and has strengthened its financial self-reliance - including broadening the range of its funding sources - long-term planning and branch structure.

Expected results

- A mission statement and vision is defined, the number of volunteers involved in programme delivery increased, and the Red Cross' headquarters is reconstructed;
- The ability of RCSBiH to generate financial resources for its programmes and to diversify sources of funding is developed.
- The capacity of the branch structure to deliver the RCSBiH services is improved.

Progress/Achievements

As a part of the Federation's continued effort to support the RCSBiH in defining a fund-raising strategy, the NS Finance Manager attended the Regional workshop in Fund-raising that was held in Budapest in April, with support of the Regional Delegation. Involvement of and communication with branches, co-ordination of local and national fund-raising activities, and definition of proper standards of reporting were on the workshop's agenda. Moreover, the RCSBiH Finance Manager was invited by the Finnish Red Cross for a case study visit on Red Cross work in fund-raising and general methods in finance and administrative issues.

Financial and technical support to the RCSBiH Presidency and headquarters (HQ) was provided in the reporting period. A similar support was provided to the RCSBiH annual assembly that was held on 19 May. During the assembly, session amendments to the RCSBiH Statutes were adopted, as well as the Report on the NS work in 2003 and Plan of Action and budget for 2004.

A certain progress has been made in relation to the pending issue of the Red Cross Law, since the Council of Ministers (BiH Government) adopted the Law and forwarded it to the Parliament for adoption. The law is expected to be passed in 2 months time. There are also encouraging signs for the solution of the Red Cross Law in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, since the Federation Entity Parliament initiated the procedure for adoption of Red Cross Law on that level. For the first time since its establishment, a financial support to the Red Cross of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been planned in the Entity budget. At the Assembly session of the Red Cross of Republika Srpska, a Decision on amendments of the Red Cross Statutes was adopted. According to that decision, the status of all Co-ordination Boards (Regional Red Cross offices) is placed on the same level, i.e. they will work on voluntary and not on professional basis and the Red Cross Youth have a right to be elected in the highest RCRS bodies. This was immediately implemented in practice, as the mandate of the Red Cross Youth leader from Kotor Varos was verified and he became a member of the RCRS Assembly.

The RCSBiH has undertaken activities in order to start rehabilitation of the NS HQ building. In the reporting period, the NS managed to obtain most of the necessary documents and permits from relevant authorities and apart of the Austrian Red Cross pledge of CHF 1,000, 000 for the reconstruction, additional funds have been pledged by the German Red Cross (200,00 EUR), United Arab Emirates Red Crescent (30,000 CHF) and Spanish Red Cross (28,000 CHF). RCSBiH has drafted a business plan for the new HQ, to be submitted to Austrian Red Cross.

In order to discuss future activities within the twinning project between Norwegian Red Cross districts and the RCSBiH cantonal/regional organisations, the District Red Cross representatives from Vest Agder visited Banja Luka/Krajina region between 1-2 May. During the 2-day visit, the Norwegian Red Cross delegation visited LRC branches in Banja Luka and Kotor Varos, as well as the site of the Red Cross Youth Camp near Kotor Varos. It was agreed that special focus of the future co-operation between two regions should be on the following activities:

- a) Youth activities - 2 Red Cross Youth from Vest Agder will take part in Balkana Summer Camp,
- b) First Aid Team from Krajina/Banja Luka will attend a First Aid competition in Vest Agder,
- c) Branch to branch activities.

A special attention was paid to the preparation of the International Youth Summer Camp that will be held in August in Kotor Varos. People in charge of this project from both sides were selected and future activities were agreed.

Due to the huge interest and good results achieved in the previous year, the Swiss Red Cross has continued to financially support the RCSBiH in implementation of small scale projects designed by the local branches. In the reporting period, four projects were implemented and six more were approved in the beginning of June. All of the selected projects are related to the traditional Red Cross activities (prevention of substance abuse, youth and social activities) or income-generating activities.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

With the press conference held on 18 March in Sarajevo, the RCSBiH and the Italian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) "Amici dei bambini" launched a joint project named "The observatory for promotion and protection of juvenile rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina". The aim of the project is to promote and protect juvenile rights in BiH and to create a clear and detailed vision of the juvenile population's status, with special focus on application of the UN Convention on children's rights. Twenty seven locations (antennas) will have a central role in the project, as Centres for documentation on the rights of the child will be placed in them. The RCSBiH Youth Clubs in 18 branches and Amici dei bambini Youth Centres will be the main dissemination channel of the project. Training of Red Cross Youth involved in the implementation of the project has been completed so far, as well as equipping of the Red Cross Youth Club offices. The project will be carried out in a 2-year period and funds of EUR 500,000 for its implementation were secured by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As a result of the joint participation of the Red Cross Youth representatives from Krajina and Vest Agder in the seminar on the European Commission's new programme for young people – YOUTH – held last year in Belgrade, their project of the International Youth Camp on Youth Participation and Information Technology was approved and got funding from the European Commission. The Camp will be held in Kotor Varos between 19-29 August for 40 participants from six different countries: Norway, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Italy, France and Spain. During the preparatory meeting held in Kotor Varos on 6 June, the Youth leaders from all six countries discussed their respective responsibilities as well as the rules for the workshop. As described in the application:

The objectives of the camp are:

- To increase the understanding of the importance of youth participation among groups of European youth,
- Intercultural learning: to develop understanding and respect for differences,
- Development of mutual understanding regarding tolerance and fight against racism in a European context,
- Create an Internet café, as a way to establish a meeting place for youth in Kotor Varos.

The objectives of the participants are:

- To establish a gathering place and stay in contact,
- European dimension to local dimension
- Self esteem,
- Interactive methodology,
- Active and democratic participation.

Constraints

Further delays in adoption of the Red Cross Law and progress less than expected in development of human and financial resources have a negative impact on the RCSBiH work.

Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

In line with a Country Plan for the Federation's support to the RCSBiH, the Federation Country Representation Office focused its work on supporting and advising the RCSBiH in the implementation of its activities related to Organisational Development, Health and Care and Population Movement, while the Regional Delegation continued to provide technical and financial support for Disaster Management.

The Federation maintains close contacts with the ICRC Delegation to BiH and two PNSs present in the country, in order to provide the most effective support of the Movement's components to the NS. The ICRC and Federation continue to give financial support to the RCSBiH headquarters and worked very closely in the implementation of various activities such as the celebration of the World Red Cross Day, Emergency Appeal, and design of the Handbook for the training of the Disaster Preparedness Programme (DPP) Emergency response Units.

Thanks to the good co-operation with the UNHCR within the PM programme and the Civil Protection within the DPP, the RCSBiH was in the position to respond quickly and get support of those institutions in the implementation of its activities during the floods.

One of the Federation's roles is to promote and strengthen the partnership and co-operation among sister National Societies. On 23 April, in Sarajevo, the RCSBiH Chairperson signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Co-operation with the Deputy Secretary General of the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent.

In the reporting period, the Federation Office facilitated visits of several PNSs (Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross) to Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to discuss future activities and possible support to the RCSBiH programmes in 2004.

International Representation and Advocacy

Two RCSBiH Youth representatives took part in the VII. Regional Red Cross Youth Conference that was held between 22-25 April in Budapest. During the conference, the Red Cross Youth discussed their activities related to blood donation, HIV/AIDS campaign, promotion of fundamental Red Cross principles and tolerance, as well as human trafficking. At the end of the conference, the participants signed a common statement.

The RCSBiH Co-Chair and Co-ordinator for International Co-operation participated at the Ljubljana Partnership Meeting between 21-22 May, where they had an opportunity to discuss possibilities for further support provided by the Federation and sister National Societies. At the end of the meeting, a final document was adopted with guidelines for the NSs related to fundraising, trafficking in human beings, fight against HIV/AIDS, TB, and the role of the Red Cross in a changing environment.

An RCSBiH delegation participated in the IX. Red Cross Red Crescent Mediterranean Conference that was hosted by the Egyptian Red Crescent in Cairo between 24-28 May. The focus of the conference was on the role of the Red Cross Youth in humanitarian activities and the participants adopted a final report from working sessions: Youth and Relief, Youth and violence, Youth and harm reduction, Youth and AIDS, as well as the Conference Declaration.

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