

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

27 December 2005

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 183 countries.

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA064; Programme Update no. 2; Period covered: July-December, 2005;

Appeal target: CHF 989,285 (USD 752,740 or EUR 634,975); Appeal coverage: 81.1 % ([Please click here to go directly to the contributions list on the web](#))

Annual Appeal 2006: [<click here>](#)

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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.

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Operational developments

The humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has remained quite stable during 2005 even if a certain worry for how the situation 2006 will develop is more obvious at the end of 2005. The worry is what will happen when VAT is introduced in the country as of January 1, 2006. The VAT is approximately 18% and the effect of this on an already poor population could be quite devastating. One effect can be that the need for Home Care Programmes is increasing. The worries are widespread in the society, especially in the countryside. For the Red Cross this a real challenge, especially since the funding for 2006 is likely to go down.

The summer and autumn 2005 has been relatively calm in BiH when it comes to emergencies, although late June and early December some parts of the country were hit by flooding due to heavy rains. The Red Cross was able to act quickly and with the support of the secretariat DREF funding RCSBiH was able to carry out relief distribution to the most vulnerable.

Health and care

Goal:

The overall health and social situation of the population in Bosnia and Herzegovina is improved.

Objective:

Through targeted Red Cross health and welfare services vulnerability is reduced and awareness of population about various health issues is increased.

Expected Results

- Sufficient resources are raised locally to deliver home-based services to all vulnerable elderly people.
- The RCSBiH is the preferred supplier of training services for first aid and the number of voluntary non remunerated blood donors is increased through safe blood promotion.
- Regular RC campaigns are organised in order to reduce AIDS-related stigma, TB incidence and substance abuse.

Progress/Achievements

In Bosnia and Herzegovina the Health and Care programme consists of two parts:

1. Health Development including first aid, blood donor recruitment, HIV/AIDS and TB activities
2. Home Care Programme which is a social care programme mainly targeted at elderly and other vulnerable groups living in smaller towns, villages and in the countryside.

In the *Health Development* programme the RCSBiH is now more and more developing the possibilities to use first aid as a vehicle for raising funds for the other programme activities. During spring 2005 RCSBiH has done some test courses for the UN organisations working in BiH with good result and there are hopes that this good development will continue. The RCSBiH receives substantial support for the first aid programme from the ICRC.

The RCSBiH is promoting blood donor recruitment as an auxiliary to the health authorities in the country. The activities are on a low level due to lack of funds. The activities carried out are mostly funded from their own sources and the international funding is very low. Nevertheless for many branches the blood donor activities are important and a very traditional Red Cross activity.

As mentioned in previous reports the RCSBiH has the intention to become more active in the HIV/AIDS and TB programmes but due to lack of funds the activities have to be on a low level. Nevertheless the society is hoping that they will be able to participate in a HIV/AIDS project sponsored by the Global Fund. BiH has received more than EUR 2 million to be distributed to various programmes in this sector.

In the *Home Care Programme* the RCSBiH is running an intervention that is quite sustainable and functioning well. There are few changes in the programme over time but the important thing is that it is running. It is assumed that the importance of the programme will go up further when the VAT taxation is introduced next year. Presently the RCSBiH is reaching 10,000 beneficiaries with their activities. Every branch in the country carries out some home care activities but in the branches (presently 6) where they have mobile technical teams the activities are more professional. The majority of the beneficiaries are elderly people in desperate need of support.

The RCSBiH has increased the home care programme this summer with the support of the Italian Red Cross and the RCSBiH will have 10 functional mobile technical teams by the end of 2005.

Impact:

The *Health Development* programme has had, mainly through first aid activities and partly through the blood donor recruitment programme, some positive impact on the BiH society in general. When it comes to the HIV/AIDS and TB programmes, the RCSBiH activities still have little impact but if and when the Global Fund project takes off, the possibilities for the RCSBiH to have an impact on the BiH society will increase considerably.

The *Home Care Programme* is ongoing quietly but with great impact on the daily lives of many people living in BiH. This is a programme that really makes a difference.

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Constraints:

The general constraints are lack of funding. In the Home Care Programme the funding situation is fairly good but in the Health Development programme the funding situation is very bad. Consequently the RCSBiH has little possibility to be active in important fields such as HIV/AIDS and TB. The hope is that this will change with the new funding possibilities through the Global Fund.

Disaster Management

Goal

National society capacity to respond quickly and efficiently to natural and man-made disasters in Bosnia and Herzegovina is upgraded.

Objective

The disaster preparedness/response (DP/DR) network in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is established and population movement issues are better addressed by the RCSBiH.

Expected Results :

- By the end of 2005, a place and role of the RCSBiH within the state planning, disaster preparedness and response activities in case of emergency is clearly defined
- By the end of 2005, 20 branch secretaries and 20 branch emergency response teams are trained and equipped
- A disaster communication network within and outside of the RCSBiH is in place, by the end of 2005.
- By the end of 2005, the population is more aware of potential risks and how to react in case of disaster via leaflets, brochures and posters.

Progress/Achievements

The RCSBiH was only able to start most of the activities planned for 2005 in late summer/early autumn due to late funding from donors.

RCSBiH has carried out basic training courses for new emergency units during this autumn according to plans. The only thing not carried out due to time constraints is disaster management training for branch secretaries. This has been postponed till early 2006.

The Norwegian Red Cross has twinning cooperation with four RCSBiH branches related to disaster management. Through this cooperation, the Norwegian Red Cross has supported the RCSBiH to carry out one assessment/training activity this summer and one field exercise/training in late autumn.

As mentioned earlier in this report the RCSBiH has distributed relief to flood victims twice this period: July and December.

Members of the regional disaster response team (RDRT) set up from RCSBiH have three times participated in emergency response activities in the region.

The RCSBiH has an agreement with the BiH Civil Protection authorities with regards to the state disaster preparedness and response activities in case of an emergency in the country. In fact the cooperation with the authorities is good with participation in each other's trainings etc.

Impact:

RCSBiH is today a major player in the BiH emergency response set up and is able to react quickly to disasters in the country.

Constraints:

The funding situation for the disaster management programme is comparatively good. The major constraint is the late funding, which normally affects the start of trainings etc. Most activities have to take place in the second half of the year.

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Population Movement

- Four mobile teams will have made 4,000 visits providing minor repairs and distributing relief items to the most vulnerable returnees.
- There is a greater understanding of the Red Cross role in asylum related activities in the community.

Progress/Achievements

The Population Movement programme is supporting returnees and also failed asylum seekers when they come to BiH from various western countries in Europe. One part is an information programme to returnees before they actually come to BiH providing information about the situation in the village or town where they are actually going. This programme has been evaluated and proven to function very well. The RCSBiH has received funding for this programme from Swedish Red Cross and based on the good results it has been agreed that the programme will continue. Besides this the Population Movement programme function very much the same as the Home Care Programme using the same Mobile Technical Teams etc. so it can be foreseen that these two programmes will be merged in the long run.

Impact:

See above.

Constraints:

Funding for this programme is good and there are no major constraints.

Organisational Development

Goal

Quality of services provided to the vulnerable population is increased through reinforced organisational capacity of the RCSBiH

Objective

The RCSBiH headquarters is reinforced through improved legal base, defined strategic priorities, increased local funding and membership.

Expected Results

- A uniform Red Cross model of functioning in accordance with the NS Strategy 2005-2010 is defined
- The fundraising/marketing strategy and implementation guidelines are developed.
- The number of well trained staff and volunteers is increased and NS HQ is reconstructed
- Participation of the Red Cross Youth in the RCSBiH programmes is increased, as well as its presence in the NS governance and management.

Progress/Achievements

The RCSBiH has a rotating chairmanship of the Presidency of the organisation where one Serb, one Croat and one Bosniak replace each other every eight months. New RCSBiH statutes were approved preliminary in 2005 and await final adoption by the General Assembly in 2006. According to the new statutes, the RCSBiH will have one President and two vice Presidents elected for a period of four years. RCSBiH will also appoint a Secretary General. If passed and implemented, the new statutes will represent a huge step forward in the consolidation of the RCSBiH and its position in the BiH civil society.

Late 2004 a new Red Cross law of BiH was approved by the BiH parliament. Unfortunately, the expectations that this law, among other things, should open for limited governmental support to the Society has not yet materialised and it is unclear if this will happen in the foreseeable future due to the financial situation in the country. This actualises the need for more systematic efforts to strengthen the self financing of the Red Cross in the country. New statutes for RCSBiH are seen as one of many important elements in this process. Among other things, new statutes can end a situation whereby various levels of the RCSBiH are competing with each other for the limited funds available. For example, presently the Entity Red Crosses and their branches do not support the RCSBiH Headquarter financially, which makes the central level of the organisation totally dependent on international support.

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As mentioned above the RCSBiH today is legally recognised by law in BiH. The same goes for the Republica Serpska RC. In the case of Federation of BiH the RC law is still waiting for approval in the Federation BiH parliament. It was expected that the approval should have come in April / May and then in September / October. The last hope for this year was approval in December but now it seems that the approval will wait till spring 2006.

Mid December the RCSBiH carried out what could be called a brain-storming seminar with 25 participants from all levels of the RCSBiH organisational set up with the aim to discuss and agree upon how the new statutes can be implemented and how the two entities and the Headquarter can work more closely together in the future. The idea is that the result of the seminar will serve as the basis for an organisational development project to run during 2006 and 2007.

Impact:

The real impact of the new RCSBiH statutes will have to wait till implementation in 2006. The OD project mentioned above will hopefully have an impact on the development of the organisational structure but also on the development of a new strategy for the RCSBiH.

Constraints:

As in all other programmes: funding. The funding situation for the RCSBiH headquarters is very bad. Today RCSBiH is totally relying on support from the Federation and the ICRC and this funding is supposed to decrease in the coming years, which makes the picture even darker. In the new RC law there are some provisions for support from the Government to the RCSBiH. Late this year the RCSBiH received some support from the Government but not the expected level. The financial situation for the RCSBiH remains very stressed and in the short run this will not change much.

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