

# 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

## SERBIA & MONTENEGRO/KOSOVO FOCUS ON KOSOVO

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

### In Brief

Appeal No: 05AA065 ; Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: 01 July to 31 December 2005

Appeal target for Kosovo (as part of Serbia & Montenegro Appeal): CHF 857,138 (USD 653,306 or EUR 553,885); Appeal coverage: 66% (*Please click here to go directly to the contributions list on the web*); Outstanding needs: CHF 291,259 (USD 221,996 or EUR 188,213)

Annual Appeal 2006: [click here](#)

#### Programme summary:

The Federation Office in Kosovo is working to strengthen the organizational and operational capacity of the two local Red Cross organizations to carry out effective health, social and disaster management programmes to improve the situation of the most vulnerable people. In this work it is important to consider the transitional context in Kosovo: the still unclear situation with regard to the status of the province following the 1999 conflict and the transition from a socialist system to a western-style democratic system has had a restricting effect on the post-conflict recovery process in terms of institutional stability, economy and social welfare. Consequently, the vulnerability of the population, which rates amongst the highest in Europe, remains acute and requires continued assistance.

After handing over responsibilities for project implementation to the local Red Cross organizations during the past two years, the major support of the Federation Office in Kosovo is mainly of a technical and monetary nature. Despite the financial limitations (only 66% of the annual appeal was covered), the Federation continued to successfully supported the two local Red Cross organizations in providing direct assistance to beneficiaries through programmes in: Health and Care, consisting of family health education, HIV/AIDS awareness and first aid training; Social Welfare, including psychosocial assistance and home care; and Disaster Management. Most importantly, the organizational capacity to meet existing humanitarian needs has been enhanced through training, technical support and capacity building. Emphasis was given to the involvement and development of Youth within the Red Cross organizations.

It is unfortunate that a number of supported activities had to be reduced towards the end of the year due to a lack of funds, e.g. the family health education courses. While parts of the planned programmes had to be limited due to some soft pledges not being followed up by hard pledges (e.g. in the sector of social welfare) others could not be implemented due to an explicit lack of funding (e.g. activities on HIV/AIDS and STD

awareness), the work of the Federation Office was complemented by the bilateral work conducted by four National Societies: German Red Cross, Saudi Red Crescent, Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross, in the sectors of health, social welfare, youth and construction/rehabilitation of office space. Other National Societies and partners in this period who deserve gratitude for their support are: British Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and Swedish Red Cross.

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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 issue of resolving the status of Kosovo moved forward during the first week of October. The UN Special Envoy Kai Eide submitted his report on the implementation of certain standards within Kosovo, to see whether conditions are in place to enter into a political process designed to determine Kosovo's future status, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999). From the report, the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan drew the conclusion that, while implementation of the standards has been uneven, the time has come to move to the next phase of the political process. His recommendation was taken up by the meeting of the UN Security Council on October 24, and the decision was made to start talks on the status of Kosovo. Following the appointment of a UN Special Envoy (Marti Ahtisaari, Finland) to facilitate and guide the process, negotiations commenced in November. Diplomatic circles estimate that the process will take between 6 and 12 months.

While the negotiations to resolve the status of Kosovo represent a major hope for the majority of the population to bring stability and thus change the current trend and improve the overall economic, social and health situation of the province, this is a goal which may only be realised in the distant future. Consequently, Federation support to the local Red Cross organizations in assisting the vulnerable population and effective service delivery needs to remain strong in the coming years, in particular since the opportunities for the local Red Cross organizations for income generation are limited and still need to be developed.

The recent developments with regard to resolving the status of Kosovo also mean that the issue of creating *one* RC Society (or National Society), which is in a position to serve all parts of a multi-ethnic society in accordance with the principles of the Red Cross Movement, is also receiving more importance now. Once it is clear what the status of Kosovo will be, this will have unambiguous consequences for the RC organizations in Kosovo and it is important for the Federation to already now prepare and support the associated processes. With regard to this aim, one has to be realistic and point out that this may only be achieved through a careful and long-term process. In addition, it is not enough to simply create such an organization, but the integrity and stability of such an organization is also essential for two reasons: on one hand, to ensure adequate and unbiased provision of services to all parts of the multi-ethnic society, and on the other hand, to provide credible advocacy by being a good example for a harmonious integration of various ethnic groups into one stable entity.

In 2003, the Joint Working Group (JWG) was initiated to enhance communication and encourage cooperation between the two local Red Cross organizations, with the ultimate aim to support the process of creating one

Red Cross organization in Kosovo. Meetings of the JWG, consisting of three volunteers from each Red Cross organization, have been regular throughout the past three years. Following some problems in the past, the meetings had come to stop. However, they were restarted and concluded with the signing of a proposal on the joint implementation of a mobile clinic project. It is hoped that the project will find some donors soon and can be implemented in 2006.

In the recent past the Federation has begun to develop, support and strengthen a regional Red Cross Network in Central and Eastern Europe, into which the Red Cross organizations in Kosovo are gradually integrated. As a result, co-operation between the Red Cross organizations in Kosovo and national societies in the region has slowly been increasing. In particular the Red Cross of Kosova (RCK) has been able to develop first co-operation contacts and possibilities in the region, in particular through taking part in a Red Cross Knowledge and Experience Sharing Meeting held in Budapest from 8 to 10 December 2005, where some 13 Red Cross organizations participated.

## Health and Care

### Goal:

The general health and the well-being of the population are improved.

### Objective:

Red Cross health programmes in Kosovo have contributed to improved general health of the population.

**Result:** Red Cross health programme has improved awareness on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases as well as danger of various addictions (drug abuse, alcohol and smoking).

The main activities under this expected result were not implemented due to the funding limitations of the programme budget. The only activity organized was the International AIDS Day implemented by the Red Cross Youth (see under OD).

**Result:** The branches are organizing health education courses and the awareness of the women and children participating in the courses on health topics is improved significantly.

In August 2005 the Red Cross of Kosova (RCK) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Family Health Education programme. The signed Memorandum sets the terms of financial programme support for the next two years by the Ministry. The agreement also recognizes the RCK as the sole provider of health education activities in the community. The Kosovo Institute for Public Health (KIPH) is monitoring the courses in order to ensure qualitatively high courses for targeted communities.

Month	Courses held	Participants
<i>July</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>300</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>450</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>800</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>1,300</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>1,320</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>4,170</b>

**Table:** Number of courses and participants in Family Health Education courses for the period July-November 2005. The reports for December are not collected yet from branches, but activities had to be reduced due to a lack of funding.

From July to November 2005 a total of **4,170** women and men of different ethnic backgrounds participated in **194** family health education courses. The courses are organized in twenty-four out of twenty-six branches of RCK, mainly in rural areas where the knowledge of women is particularly low on health and hygiene issues. The existing training modules for courses include; personal hygiene, family planning, prenatal care, pregnancy and delivery, HIV/AIDS and STDs, nutrition and child care.

An ad-hoc working group consisting of 6 branch secretaries, RCK HQ and Federation was established in November in order to review the overall implementation of the programme. During the first meeting

successes and challenges of the programme were discussed among the members of the working group and some recommendations were given for the improvement of the programme in 2006. The recommendations of the working group will be further discussed between RCK HQ, Health Commission and the Federation to ensure that the programme will offer qualitative services to the community. The final results will also be shared with the Institute for Public Health as their involvement is crucial particularly in health promotion activities.

**Result:** Branches have offered a better volunteer-based social welfare service that improves the wellbeing of vulnerable communities.

The psycho-social/moral support group for families of missing persons started in two branches of RCK (Gjakova and Deçan). The aim of the moral support groups is to assist the families overcome the difficulties they face after reburial of their loved ones. Participants include families of persons who were killed during the 1999 conflict and whose remains were recently re-buried and families whose members are still missing. The group sessions will last for 6 weeks and during this period a local facilitator will assist participants in identifying their strengths and weaknesses. Participants will also be taught some coping mechanisms to come to terms with their grief and their current family situation. In the fifth session of the group, different stakeholders will be included in order to find ways of meeting the needs identified during the group sessions.

Due to the last moment cancellation from the local facilitator the training on psychological support for Red Cross volunteers had to be delayed. 28 volunteers from 18 branches, who participated in the previous two trainings in 2002 and 2003, were selected to attend the third refresher training on psychological support. This group of volunteers is also considered as the core group in providing psycho-social support activities. The training will be re-scheduled for early 2006.

**Result:** A defined social welfare policy is developed and implemented.

No activity was implemented for this expected result.

**Result:** Red Cross branches have provided first aid courses for children and youth involving all ethnic groups.

The Federation has reviewed the project proposal on first aid education for children and youth of all communities submitted in June by the Red Cross of Kosovo. As no agreement could be reached on certain essential elements of the project, the start of the project was delayed until such agreement is reached.

## Organizational Development

### Goal:

Better functioning Red Cross organisations that have provided more support to vulnerable communities

### Objective:

Support Red Cross organisations in their organizational and resource development including restructuring process with stronger and younger staff and volunteers

**Result:** RCK statutes, mission, vision and other legal documents will have been revised and adopted.

Following the three-day workshop on Strategy Planning in May 2005, work on Red Cross of Kosovo Strategy for 2006-2009 continued during the report period. Joint planning sessions between RCK and the Federation were organized regularly and are ongoing. The strategy is expected to be



*An elderly beneficiary of the Home Care Programme*



*RCK Presidency members and HQ staff attend a training workshop on governance and management*

finalized by the end of the year. Upon finalizing and approval by the board in January 2006, the documents will be translated and printed in three languages, Albanian, Serbian and English.

**Result:** Relevant training has been provided to newly elected board members in governance and management issues.

Following the Local Governance Training for the newly elected board members and branch secretaries on branch level, training for RCK Central Presidency members and RCK HQ staff was organized in December. The training workshop was facilitated by the Head of Regional Delegation in Budapest together with the Kosovo OD Manager. By the end of the training the participants had better knowledge on the different and complementary roles of governance and management within a Red Cross organization. In addition, they were informed about the discussions during the Federation General Assembly in Seoul. All the participants received supportive translated and printed materials.

**Result:** The new regional structure has been designed and is functional.

Informal meetings between RCK and the Federation with regard to a regional structure were initiated during the last two months of the reporting period. The central issues for discussion are whether a regional structure will bring the expected administrative benefits or whether, in such a small organizational setting, the operational difficulties and resistance from the branches will outweigh such a restructuring. The Federation will have to reassess whether there are better ways to assist RCK in improving its structure.

**Result:** An efficient financial management system is implemented at regional and HQ level.

Some initial meetings took place to evaluate the current financial management system of RCK and to initiate a finance management development plan. The focus of this plan will be to provide the branches with a better finance system and to train the relevant staff to use it. The aim is to enable RCK to better plan and monitor their finances. This will be done in a staged process.

**Result:** The volunteer policy has been designed and the process of establishing the volunteer management data base is underway.

Since there is still no Volunteer Commission within RCK yet, the Youth Commission committed itself to draft volunteer policy to submit to the OD Commission for review.

**Result:** Youth policy and strategy has been designed and adopted.

The Youth Commission together with RCK HQ and the Federation met several times to draft youth policy that was distributed to RCK youth volunteers from all 26 branches during the meeting organized in Prishtina by RCK Youth Coordinator. Feedback is expected by the end of December. It is expected that the policy will be approved by the board soon thereafter.

**Result:** Youth training modules have been designed and relevant trainings are organized for current and future youth volunteers.

Youth training modules were designed and will be designed in January 2006.



*Youth participate in a quiz on HIV/AIDS in Kamenicë/Kamenica branch of RCK*

The RCK Youth Programme Coordinator, together with youth volunteers, prepared a draft plan of action on HIV/AIDS and risk behaviour. The Federation, upon approval of the PoA, will assist RCK in advocating to the relevant institutions in Kosovo for future possible cooperation and/or support of RCK Youth plans.

During August, three summer camps were organized by the two RC organizations in Kosovo, two by RCK and one by RCKM. RCK organized two 5-day camps at Batllava Lake for socially

disadvantaged children who are usually selling cigarettes in the streets. There were 60 participants from all 26 branches. RCKM organized a 10-day camp at Gazivode Lake where 30 children participated. The camps also had some formal elements where the children had the chance to discuss issues like risk behaviour, tobacco, drugs, compromise between children and adults, etc.

On 17 November, Kamenicë/Kamenica branch, organized a knowledge quiz on HIV/AIDS for and with youth. This activity, which was supported by the Federation, was an initiative of the youth volunteers themselves. Three branches participated with their volunteers in this activity: Gjilan/Gnjilane, Viti/Vitina and Kamenicë/Kamenica.

In November, RCK Youth organized a survey among youth in 26 branches. 2000 questionnaires with HIV/AIDS questions were distributed and later collected again. A report will be produced based on the questionnaire which will show the level of knowledge among young people in Kosovo on various issues related to HIV/AIDS. Following the report, the PoA on HIV/AIDS will be revised accordingly.

On 1 December an event was organized to highlight the International Day of HIV/AIDS. The main activities took place in the southeastern town of Gjilan/Gnjilane where youth volunteers, with coordination and support of RCK HQ, organized an information event and a candle march. The Federation health and care programme supported this event with Red Cross aprons and red ribbon stickers, red scarfs, brochures, candles, etc. The number of youth participants exceeded all expectations. While it was expected that some



*Youth volunteers and some branch secretaries marching on World HIV/AIDS Day*



*The RCK President (right) and youth volunteers participate in the events of World HIV/AIDS Day*

300 youth would in the march, more than 500 joined the RCK youth volunteers marching through the main streets. There was also an exhibition organized by youth with pictures of the RCK youth activities organized in the 26 branches.

**Result:** Engagement of youth in other programme areas as an important planning and implementing component is increased.



*Signing of the joint project proposal*

RCK recognizes the youth as their key volunteers in the implementation of programmes. The Federation has facilitated the meetings with the youth and RCK HQ to assist in developing a youth volunteer structure as well as a strategy for recruiting and retaining new youth volunteers. This has been reinforced since the General Assembly earlier in 2005 where the number of youth being members of presidency was increased and thus the opportunities to be the constituent part of RCK.

**Result:** The process of creating one Red Cross organization in Kosovo is ongoing and joint activities are being implemented when possible.

The Federation and ICRC have been continuing to support the joint working group (JWG) initiatives for cooperation. Possible joint activities will contribute to the creation of one RC organization as well as a better reach of all areas of Kosovo. Two JWG meetings were held in May and June 2005 after a break of almost a year. Two other meeting were held on 8 and 16 December 2005.

The main topic discussed during the meetings was the implementation of a joint project of running a mobile clinic. The proposal, which was developed in cooperation, was signed by all JWG members. In early 2006, administrative guidelines will be drafted by the Federation and ICRC and have to agree during the coming meetings in 2006 before the project implementation can start.

**Result:** A Disaster Management Plan has been designed and the role of the Red Cross within the Government is defined.

Six meetings of the DM working group were held during the period July-December. The working group consists of the RCK DM Coordinator and 5 branch secretaries including Federation and ICRC. Various topics were discussed in the meetings: status of RCK within the Kosovo Central Disaster Plan; and future plans for building the capacities of RCK in disaster preparedness and response. Although the RCK role is specified at the central level, this is not the case at the municipal level. Only few branch secretaries are members of the municipal DM committees and participating regularly in the meetings. The reason for this, according to some branch secretaries, is that there is still no Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the respective Department and RCK.

The Red Cross of Kosovo and Metohija (RCKM) has submitted and discussed their Disaster Management plan for two years 2006-07. The main goal of the plan is to build the capacities of RCKM in public awareness, disaster prevention and emergency response.

**Result:** Improved organizational capacity of both Red Cross organizations to coordinate safe access during the time of disasters/conflicts.

The mapping of the RCK disaster response resources was completed. Filled questionnaires where returned to HQ from branches containing all necessary information about human and material resources at branch level. The information will be used as database of DM for the RCK.

A draft training plan with priorities for 2006 is being drafted by the members of the working group with the assistance of Federation office. Ten training areas were identified during the meetings of the DM working group and the members decided to focus only on three to be further developed and finalized by the end of the year.

First Aid kits for Disaster Response Teams were procured and will be distributed to both RCK and RCKM.

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