

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

VOICING HIDDEN VULNERABILITIES IN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

Appeal No. MAA66002
2 August 2006

The Federation's vision is to strive, through voluntary action, for a world of empowered communities, better able to address human suffering and crises with hope, respect for dignity and a concern for equity. Its 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 185 countries.

In Brief

Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 1 January to 30 June, 2006; Appeal target: CHF 690,588 (USD 560,650 or EUR 440,000); Appeal coverage: 43 per cent;

(Click here for the Interim financial report)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Voicing hidden Vulnerabilities in Europe and Central Asia Annual Appeal 2006/2007.

For details please see the website at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA66002.pdf

Annual Appeals 2006/2007 for Central Europe and Central Asia region.

For details please see the website at: <http://www.ifrc.org/where/europe.asp>

The programmes herein are aligned with the Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission :

- 1. Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- 2. Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- 3. Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- 4. Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

Programme summary:

The collective approach to voicing hidden vulnerabilities in Europe and Central Asia works in tandem with National Society domestic programmes in 51+ countries as well as Federation capacity building in several locations via its country and regional programmes.

The two objectives of this appeal – increased influence through a strategic approach in policy, advocacy and communications and the support to the preparations to the VII European Regional Conference – remains in substance valid and are implemented continuously. However, a third objective on continental governance and management support was added to this appeal and will be introduced in this Programme Update.

Even though the activities of this appeal have been slightly amended the overall budget remains unchanged at this point. However, a budget revision will be introduced in the second half of the year and greater donor support will be sought in order to ensure that the expected results of this appeal can be met.

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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 quality and accountable 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

This appeal is a continuation of the Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities Appeal 2005 and seeks to better align the International Federation's voice, presence and action in influential national, regional and international forums that could lead to a positive difference being made to people's lives. The Europe Department in the Federation Secretariat takes the responsibility to support National Societies across the region in addressing these challenges and to respond adequately to emerging trends in this huge and diverse region full of economic, social, and political contradictions.

The activities of this appeal are not only shaped by the general context of Europe and Central Asia, but are also particularly influenced by the current 'Federation of the Future' process within the Federation. As discussions in regards to the structure of regional departments are still ongoing, the Europe Department already started to work in a different way in terms of its governance/management support to National Societies across Europe and Central Asia. This new working modality has become part of this appeal and is reflected in this Programme Update.

Implementation and Coordination

As in the previous year, the Annual Appeal 2006-2007 has focussed on policy, advocacy and communications, as well as the preparations/implementation of the Moscow Conference. These two areas of work still remain the major focus of the appeal, however, adjustments have been made within the reporting period from January – June 2006 and a new expected result was added to the appeal.

The Federation Secretariat continues to seize all opportunities to inspire, encourage and facilitate activities of all 51+ European National Societies in advocacy and international representation to fulfil its mandate as outlined in the Constitution. Often such support is provided through advice on the policy framework within which the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is operating. Tangible outcomes are often difficult to achieve in this area of work, however, some specific programme activities – mainly linked to publications as a tool to support the effort – remain a concrete piece of work. The position of Senior Officer for Policy and Advocacy, currently filled through a Staff-on-Loan position from Austrian Red Cross, originally due to terminate in December 2005 was extended until June 2006. Given the lack of funding in Europe Department and at the same time the importance of providing support to National Societies on policy and advocacy issues, a decision was made in March 2006 to reduce the position to 30 per cent coverage and in this way to extend it until end October 2006. This extension does not have budgetary implications on the seconding National Society or on the appeal budget. Objectives and expected results remain the same, however, they will be implemented at a slower pace as originally anticipated. The activities will be further described under expected result number 1.

The second activity concerning the preparations and implementation of the Moscow Conference remains as an expected result unchanged. Nevertheless, as already briefly outlined in the Annual Report of the Voicing Appeal 2005, the year 2005 was characterised by a number of challenges in regards to the preparatory process of the Moscow Conference. Consequently, on 15 February 2006 the Conference Planning Committee proposed, and the Governing Board decided, to postpone the VII European Regional Conference to 2007 and initiate a process to identify a new location and a new host National Society. Due to this decision, the wording of the objective

changed, even though the substance of the work remains the same. It will be further described below under expected result no. 2. This change bears no budgetary implications for the appeal.

Finally, in order to align the Europe Department to the discussions of the Federation of the Future process and to its new operating model, a new objective was introduced to this appeal. A consultant with a continental-wide responsibility will support National Societies to clarify the role of governance and management. Indeed, Strategy 2010 considers this clarification as one of the most important criteria for a 'well-functioning National Society' and action point 4 of the Strategy of the Movement requests all National Societies to update their statutes in accordance to the minimum requirements as outlined in the document 'Guidance on National Society Statutes' adopted and approved by the General Assembly in 1999 and the Governing Board in 2000. The determination of the National Society's governance and management responsibilities is seen as a key component of the tasks of the National Society's Governing and Executive bodies towards its stakeholders and members. At the same time, the separation of the governance and management functions forms a single whole of the National Society leadership, where each statutory body has well defined rights and responsibilities. Strong governance and effective management are leadership requirements to ensure the appropriate performance of the National Society, its public image and protection of its integrity. On this basis, this new objective has been introduced to the appeal at the beginning of the year. Governance and management support to National Societies is not a new activity and has been carried out by different delegations in previous years. However, the set-up and organisational structure in which this function is now performed is more cost-effective and impact-oriented. Further details on this objective, its expected result and activities are further described below.

Even though this activity has budgetary implications, it does not require an overall budget revision at this point of time. As activities in regards to policy, advocacy and communications are implemented on a slower pace a budget reduction might occur in this field which will be balanced by the activities in the new area of this appeal. Hence, the overall budget of the appeal remains unchanged and the continental governance/ management support remains within the framework of the 'coordination and implementation' work of this appeal and can also be subsumed under the overall goal of this appeal.

Goal: Facilitate and promote European Red Cross and Red Crescent activities to alleviate human suffering through a strengthened coordination, cooperation and equal partnerships, as well as improved advocacy and communications.

Progress/Achievements

Objective 1: Increased influence on humanitarian policy and decision makers at the international, regional and national level through a coherent and strategic approach in advocacy and communications.

Expected Results: Policy, Advocacy & Communications:

- Finalised and started implementation of a coherent advocacy and communications strategy for the Europe and Central Asia region
- Improved advocacy support to National Societies in their national advocacy objectives and more effective advocacy and representation activities by Federation and National Societies staff at international, regional and national events
- Produced publications (Bridge, thematic brochures) to support the advocacy efforts of the European National Societies.

Achievements, Impact and Constraints

In order to achieve the above mentioned objective, the Federation Secretariat and its National Societies have to position themselves on issues of particular relevance to their national contexts. Despite the reduced workforce available for activities in this area, the following activities have been carried out:

Advocacy and Communications Strategy:

The global **advocacy and communications strategy** of the International Federation which was expected to be finalised in December 2005 is currently still in discussion. Efforts by the Europe Department to formulate a

regional European strategy can only be finalised once it can be ensured that it will fit within the overall global frame. The consultation process with National Societies in regards to the Federation of the Future process has been also instrumental in this regard. Indeed, the consultation process which was finalised in June 2006 confirmed the understanding of National Societies that policy and advocacy as a function at Geneva-level is essential. Nevertheless, a regional strategy has to be embedded within the structure of its department which is not yet determined. Therefore, finalisation of the advocacy and communications strategy is on hold until end of the year.

Policy & Advocacy Support:

National Societies in the region are more and more requesting advice on policy and advocacy matters. In an environment of increased tensions and polarisation, many of the Western European National Societies want to position themselves towards the EU concerning policies on *migration, health & care*, as well as *civil protection*. In this regard, support has been provided by the Secretariat to the EU office in formulating a Movement Position on the report submitted by Michel Barnier, former French Minister for Foreign Affairs on 'Pour une force européenne de protection civile: Europe aid'.

In addition, technical input was provided to statements of EU National Societies on the 'Humanitarian Situations affecting Migrants at EU border and within EU territory', as well as on the 'draft EU Directive on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals'. Even though the International Federation cannot always provide these European statements with its signature due to the consideration it has to take for 185 member societies, it does provide regular policy advice in the drafting process.

Further advice and support is also provided to National Societies as per request and to Federation delegations. This support concerns mainly issues around return of irregular migrants and failed asylum seekers, as well as *Roma & Sinti* programming in the core area of Principles and Values.

Network and Partnership Support:

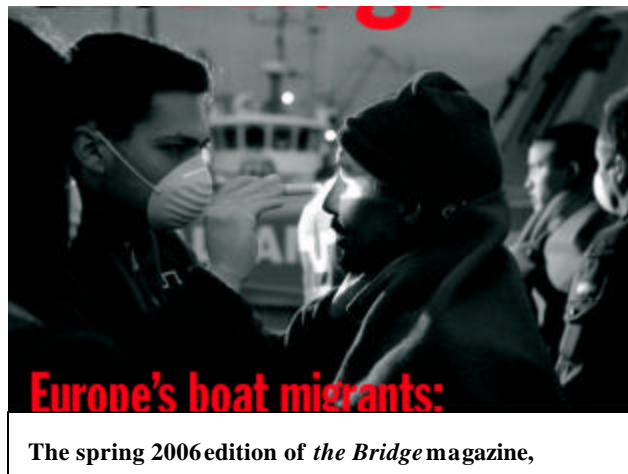
Linked to the policy and advocacy support is support to *regional networks* in Europe. Regional networks are an important facet of cooperation and coordination among National Societies and they are pooling a wide-scope of knowledge and expertise on different themes. Currently, 11 networks exist in Europe and Central Asia with increasing interest to participate in the activities of the International Federation at the global level. The Europe Department remains a platform for knowledge sharing and wants to enable them to participate more effectively in the policy-making of the International Federation. Indeed, this approach is also in line with the Federation of the Future process and the outlined membership services. Within this framework, regional networks have been identified as one area of improvement and efforts were undertaken within the Secretariat to put regional networks high on the agenda in the Federation of the Future deliberations. A network meeting of all chairpersons will be planned for the second half of 2006 in Geneva.

Following previous efforts on the '*European Stop TB Partnership*', one of the more recent operational alliances between the World Health Organisation and the International Federation's Health & Care and Europe Department, the coordinator for this partnership has started his work at the Federation Secretariat in June 2006. It is hoped that with the full-time staff member, currently located within Health & Care Department, major achievements will

follow in establishing the governance structure of the partnership and to start advocacy activities linked to the partnership.

The Bridge

The spring edition of the Bridge, with a focus on Humanitarian Values and Migration was published in April 2006. For the first time, National Societies in Europe and Central Asia presented their activities on reducing discrimination and respect for diversity and spoke out on migration issues. The issue has been launched in English and Russian in time for the 20th anniversary of Chernobyl which features as a special double page in this Bridge issue. The Bridge remains an important communications and advocacy tool. Since the



introduction of the thematic focus of *the Bridge* many National Societies have started to regularly submit it to their governments to provide an overview of the activities within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. *The Bridge* will continue to be published twice a year and the next issue will be due in November 2006. However, funding of the publication remains a major concern and donations are requested.

Objective 2: Supported the Russian Red Cross Society in organizing the VII European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Following the decision of the Governing Board in February 2006 on the postponement and relocation of the VII European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the subsequent decision to hold the Conference in Istanbul in May 2007, hosted by the Turkish Red Crescent Society, the objective has been modified to read: Support the Turkish Red Crescent Society in organizing the VII European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Expected Result: Preparations and Implementation of the VII European Regional Conference

- Successful preparations and implementation of the VII European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Moscow in April 2006.

In coherence with the above decision, the expected result has been modified to read: Successful preparations and implementation of the VII European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Istanbul in May 2007.

Achievements, Impact and Constraints

At the Governing Board meeting on 15 – 16 February 2006, this statutory body did not only decide to postpone and relocate the VII European Regional Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from Moscow to a new venue, but also expressed their wish that the Conference should be hosted by a National Society representing Central or Eastern Europe. Furthermore, the Governing Board has empowered the President and the Vice-President for Europe, in consultation with the Secretary General, to decide upon a new venue and date for the Regional Conference. In view of these decisions, the Federation Secretariat has approached the 51+ National Societies in the region to invite them to express their willingness to host the Conference. Three National Societies replied positively to this invitation: Turkish Red Crescent Society, Latvian Red Cross and Croatian Red Cross all submitted their offers to act as host National Society. In addition, the Swiss Red Cross agreed in principle to co-host the Conference should it be held in Geneva. In June 2006 the President, the Vice President for Europe and the Secretary General of the Federation agreed to accept the offer of the Turkish Red Crescent Society to host the Conference in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2007. This decision has been also welcomed by the Governing Board in its June meeting. Consequently, the Conference Planning Committee held two meetings during the June statutory meetings and decided the dates of the VII European Regional Conference will be from 20 – 25 May 2007.

Despite these delays on the organisation of the Conference, the preparations on the substance continued throughout the first half of 2006. The working group on Health & Care, chaired by the French Red Cross and co-chaired by ERNA and the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society, consolidated the working group members and prepared a background document to outline the focus of the deliberations of the working group, namely HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and social care. The working group on Migration, chaired by the Swiss Red Cross and co-chaired by PERCO and the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society, has finalised discussions on the themes of the deliberations (protection, assistance and durable solutions), the overall workshop outline and all related organisational matters. The working group is now in the process of writing the background document which will serve as a basis for the deliberations of the Conference participants. The work of the two groups will be further presented in the Steering Committee in its meeting in September 2006 when the agenda and budget of the Conference shall be discussed.

The Staff-on-Loan position of a Conference Officer based in Geneva to support the host society in organising the Conference continues to be part of this appeal. The funds received from the Finnish and Swedish Red Cross Societies received for this purpose are frozen until this position will be filled in the second half of the year.

Objective 3: National Societies are supported in clarifying the role of governance and management.

This is a new objective which has been introduced along the lines as introduced above.

Expected Result: Continental Governance / Management Support to National Societies

- Ongoing support is provided to National Societies to revise their statutes and to address integrity issues.

Achievements, Impact and Constraints

In order to achieve the objective in this area of work, support is provided to National Societies to revise their statutes. The Federation Secretariat has a mandatory responsibility to provide support to National Societies engage in such a change process. Beyond the provision of relevant documentation and tools, continuous guidance, advice and coaching is essential to ensure the successful organisational change. In Central Asia, a pilot project was started at the end of 2002. At that time, the Federation Representative in Georgia, who had strong expertise in the field of National Society's statutory matters as former President of the Armenian Red Cross, was a major advantage. In addition, as fluent Russian speaker he was able to engage with the Central Asian National Societies on the organisational change process as an equal partner. The Europe Department used his special skills and knowledge to assist the five Central Asian National Societies in initiating the revision of their statutes.

Such organisational change is a long and ongoing process but up until now full appreciation has been expressed by all parties concerned: the Central Asian National Societies, the partner National Societies, the ICRC and also within the Federation Secretariat. Given this encouraging feedback and taking into account the needs for such support in other National Societies in the region, the Europe Department decided to build on this expertise and established a consultant position to work exclusively on this issue. Consequently, the same consultant has been hired as of 15 March 2006 for one year.

Financial support has been received so far from Swedish and German Red Cross and it is hoped that further pledges will be made in order to allow the Federation Secretariat to engage with National Societies on the role of governance and management in a mid- to long-term perspective.

Since mid-March, the consultant has continued his work with the Central Asian National Societies, particularly with the Tajikistan and Turkmenistan Red Crescent Societies. Furthermore, he was invited by the Russian Red Cross to engage in a workshop related to its revision of statutes. He also attended a Legal Base seminar hosted by the Danish Red Cross. The work of the consultant is coordinated by the Europe Department, in close cooperation with the Governance Support Unit and the ICRC. A separate full report on the activities of the first few months of his work will be submitted to interested partners in August 2006. This report can also be downloaded from FedNet Europe & Central Asian pages under the section on 'strategic documents'. Further funding for this consultant position will be sought throughout the year to ensure its sustainability and a possible budget revision may then follow later the year.

[Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA66002 - VOICING HIDDEN VULNERABILITIES IN EUROPE

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/6
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA66002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget					690,588	690,588
B. Opening Balance					129,058	129,058
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>Austrian Red Cross</i>					12,015	12,015
<i>British Red Cross</i>					20,000	20,000
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>					28,173	28,173
<i>German Red Cross</i>					27,528	27,528
<i>Irish Red Cross Society</i>					3,937	3,937
<i>LI KA SHING Foundation</i>					291	291
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>					49,925	49,925
C1. Cash contributions					141,868	141,868
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>					-28,173	-28,173
<i>German Red Cross</i>					26,738	26,738
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)					-1,435	-1,435
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>					0	0
<i>Italian Red Cross</i>					0	0
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>					0	0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)					0	0
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>Austrian Red Cross</i>					26,660	26,660
C5. Inkind Personnel					26,660	26,660
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)					167,094	167,094
D. Total Funding = B + C					296,152	296,152

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance					129,058	129,058
C. Income					167,094	167,094
E. Expenditure					-93,177	-93,177
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)					202,975	202,975

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA66002 - VOICING HIDDEN VULNERABILITIES IN EUROPE

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/6
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA66002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance	
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation			
A							B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)							690,588	690,588	
Personnel Expenditures									
Delegates Payroll	385,000					30,888	30,888	354,112	
Delegate Benefits						15,855	15,855	-15,855	
Consultants						32,234	32,234	-32,234	
Total Personnel Expenditures	385,000					78,977	78,977	306,023	
Workshops & Training									
Workshops & Training	20,000							20,000	
Total Workshops & Training	20,000							20,000	
General Expenditure									
Travel	20,000					87	87	19,913	
Information & Public Relation	200,000					3,841	3,841	196,159	
Office Costs	16,500					2,530	2,530	13,970	
Communications	4,200					1,445	1,445	2,755	
Financial Charges						353	353	-353	
Total General Expenditure	240,700					8,256	8,256	232,444	
Program Support									
Program Support	44,888					5,944	5,944	38,944	
Total Program Support	44,888					5,944	5,944	38,944	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	690,588					93,177	93,177	597,412	
VARIANCE (C - D)						597,412	597,412		