

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

Appeal No. MAACS001
18 July 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 183 countries.

In Brief

Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 1 January to 31 May 2006;
Appeal target: CHF 6,096,000 (USD 4,869,475 or EUR 3,894,370)
[Click here for the interim financial report to date](#)

Appeal target for Serbia and Montenegro: CHF 3,952,000 (USD 3,156,205 or EUR 2,524,485); Appeal coverage: 65 %¹
Appeal target for Kosovo: CHF 2,145,000 (USD 1,712,785 or EUR 1,370,615); Appeal coverage: 19 %

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Serbia and Montenegro/Kosovo Annual Appeal 2006/2007. For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAACS001.pdf

Serbia and Montenegro Floods and Landslides DREF Bulletin. For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDRYU001.pdf

Kosovo Floods DREF Bulletin. For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDRKV001.pdf

Annual Appeals 2006/2007 for Europe/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.

For the Kosovo Programme Update, which is part of this Annual Appeal, please [click here](#)

¹ According to the interim financial report attached, the coverage for Serbia and Montenegro stands at 39%. Nevertheless, owing to a contract signed with the British Red Cross, CHF 2.1 million is pledged for 3 years for the Home Care Programme, which is paid in instalments every 6 months. Therefore, the actual coverage for the reporting period is 65% and no additional funding for Serbia and Montenegro is required.

Programme summary:

This year marks yet another stage in the dissolution of the country formerly known as Yugoslavia. At the end of the three year period in which Serbia and Montenegro agreed to be members of a state union, the referendum in Montenegro provided grounds for this republic to proclaim its independence. The result is the two new countries in Europe, Serbia, retaining the international status of the state union and Montenegro, starting afresh. This process reflected on the National Society as well. As a result most activities supported through the Federation appeal were affected to some extent. Most of the service delivery and training activities went as planned with developmental activities and new initiatives going a lot slower or not happening at all.

The work with vulnerable population continued. Over 12,000 people were directly assisted through Health and Care and Population Movement activities (Home Care, Open kindergarten for Roma and other children from socially deprived families, Support to children with disabilities, Support to asylum seekers and returned asylum seekers, Vocational training for refugees) with advocacy activities satisfyingly continuing to gain higher profile than before. Disaster Management activities continued with the scaling up of the capacity of the Red Cross to be prepared and respond to disasters but also with developing inter-agency cooperation crucial for community based disaster preparedness and response. The small and medium scale disasters and emergencies that happened in the reporting period (floods and landslides in Serbia, railway accident in Montenegro) demonstrated the importance of this work.

The organizational development work has yet to fully follow the planning done in the previous period. With the National Society focused on the issues of split and subsequent forming of new National Societies, the Federation was active in ensuring continuity of previously started projects such as Youth and Volunteering, IT & Communication and Finance Development. The immediate future will, no doubt demand a lot of governance support with both Red Cross of Serbia and Red Cross of Montenegro starting on their separate ways as independent National Societies.

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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

Serbia and Montenegro entered its final year of a three-year probation period as a state union with quite a few unresolved economic, political and social matters. With inflation higher than projected but still under control (15.5 per cent by the end of 2005) and GDP increase rate of 5.5 per cent, the economy seems to be stabilising. However the unemployment rate is still very high (over 30 per cent) and the rate of fresh foreign investments is still low. Despite the fact that Serbian parliament managed to adopt over 200 laws in 2005, it is the slow pace of implementation of these laws and the continuing overall financial and political instability that is preventing faster development of business relations with large foreign partners.

The repeated failure of Serbian and state union authorities to apprehend and deliver Ratko Mladic to the Hague Tribunal has finally resulted in EU calling off negotiations over the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia and Montenegro. EU Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn explained that negotiations with Serbia and Montenegro would resume only after general Ratko Mladic is shipped to Hague.

The negotiations between Serbia and the representatives of the Kosovo temporary institutions about the future of this province have started and followed a tight schedule of one meeting per month. This is thanks to the United Nations (UN) efforts and the unofficial agenda of the Special Envoy for Kosovo of the UN Secretary General, Marti Ahtisaari to have the issue reaching a reasonably satisfying conclusion by the end of the year. The negotiations, however, have so far had little success due in part to the fact that parties involved have essentially different goals. The Serbian side views the negotiations primarily as a forum to discuss decentralisation of Kosovo and the restructuring of municipal system that would grant the Serbian population a reasonably high level of self-government in what Serbian side describes as 'more than autonomy, less than independence' future scenario for this province. The Kosovo-Albanians however, view the talks as discussion about the definite future status of this region and is keen to see it determined before the end of the year. Right now it is impossible to foresee the results of these talks and not resort to wild speculation. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Belgrade has prepared a contingency plan in the event of Kosovo gaining full independence, expecting up to 70,000 refugees to enter Serbia in such a scenario. About 250,000 people have been displaced from Kosovo to Serbia following the conflict in 1999, with some 14,500 (40 per cent of who are Serbs) returning to Kosovo to date. Official Serbian statistics speak about approximately 225,000 internally displaced people on the territory of Serbia. However, with Kosovo potentially gaining full independence, it is reasonable to expect their status to be changed into something else.

In late May, the referendum on independence in Montenegro collected enough positive votes (55.5 per cent) to end the three year existence of state union between Serbia and Montenegro. Both states' parliaments have in following weeks proclaimed independence with Serbia also officially proclaiming inheritance of the state union legislation, international status and treaties. While it is satisfying to see a separation of former Yugoslav republics pass without armed conflict this time around, the mixed population and property issues mean there are a lot of matters to be resolved between the two now neighbouring countries.

The described political events, especially the slow but inevitable stride towards the dissolution of the state union have affected the implementation of the Red Cross programmes supported through the Federation in less than a positive way. While the service delivery and training portions of the programmes mostly followed the planned dynamic, the developmental activities suffered visibly. The National Society has elections on all levels planned for this year which has most of the staff occupied and the preparations for the separation of republican Red Cross organisations, extinguishing of the Federal-level organisation and the staff/ property issues serve as additional baggage. The developmental work (scaling-up resources, putting more emphasis on advocacy and networking, addressing the issues of community relevance and long-term sustainability) had to reflect reality and correspond with the daily needs, still retaining the general direction. In the second half of the year it is to be expected for the Federation to focus even more on the support to the two emerging National Societies to find their footing which means that the individual programme development might still be slower than originally intended.

Health and Care

The health and care activities in 2006 are about continuation and development of the existing long-term programmes. Home Care and Social Welfare programmes are both multi-year initiatives that had introduced a new, modern, community based, service-focused, needs-lead approach to the Red Cross work in health and care. In 2006 these programmes are about increasing the quality of existing services and developing deeper cooperation between agencies (governmental and non-governmental), Red Cross, beneficiaries and other interested parties. The health promotion work, on the other hand is still about testing approaches to come up with a national Red Cross policy.

Overall Goal: The quality of life of particular vulnerable populations is increased. The general public awareness of at-risk behaviours is raised and as a result, the behaviour is changed.

Programme Objective: The National Society is recognised as a credible, influential actor within the sphere of health and care, delivering sustainable services for vulnerable people, representing and advocating for them and promoting healthy life styles.

Home Care Expected Result: Empowered local communities working through Red Cross branches identify and provide services to up to 10,000 vulnerable elderly people, advocating for their rights and providing them with assistance and support to maintain the dignity of their lives in their own homes. The sustainability of the programme is increased; branches have more sustainable resources to deliver the service and there is a national framework for support.

Running from January 2002, Home care has grown into one of the biggest programmes of the National Society. Currently covering 96 municipalities across the country, the programme continually provides much needed assistance in and around the house for more than 9,000 beneficiaries. The following table contains some essential data:

Month	Beneficiaries	Professionals	Volunteers	Prof. visits	Volunteer visits
January	8,849	145	1,584	6,450	19,713
February	9,635	163	1,793	6,911	22,507
March	9,585	145	1,762	7,123	21,331
April	9,823	158	1,755	7,301	21,978
May	9,536	152	1,679	7,212	21,995

The programme continued its usual activities in 2006. Across 96 municipalities approximately 9,000 beneficiaries were routinely visited and assisted by more than 1,500 volunteers and supported by 150 professional associates. This is now the single largest services-based programme in the National Society – covering more than half of the territory of the state union and the highest number of beneficiaries. The programme is funded multilaterally, through the Federation, by British and Norwegian Red Cross societies.

Activities

Development

With service-delivery run fairly well, the focus of the management is now on developing the programme along the lines of the two external evaluations done in 2005. Key goals are increased efficiency, increased participation of the implementing staff and beneficiaries in programme development, better satisfaction of beneficiary needs and increased sustainability of the activities.

1. Bonus projects

Following the training in late 2005, a new assessment of needs in all the branches active in the programme was done. Based on the participatory methodology, this assessment was used to reach deeper understanding of the needs in the field, as perceived and expressed by the population the programme was created to assist. Moreover, the emphasis was put on the comprehensive approach as to map not only the local needs but capacities and opportunities as well.

Using the results of the assessment, the branches then designed projects in order to expand on their existing Home Care activities. The projects were ideally meant to address the newly identified needs, increase the level of cooperation within the local community (Red Cross, other agencies, beneficiaries themselves) and through this secure the sustainability of the programme in the long term. Out of 55 applications received, the commission (consisting of programme staff, beneficiaries' representatives and independent members) rated and selected 27 to be supported. Sadly, no projects from Montenegro rated high enough to be supported. However, it was decided to let Montenegro Red Cross branches have additional time to revisit their projects and provide additional coaching sessions to assist them in project design. This unfortunately has not taken place yet with the Red Cross of Montenegro being occupied with other matters and at this point it seems less and less likely that the Red Cross of Montenegro branches will have the opportunity to do these additional projects this year.

The 27 branches in Serbia started implementing their projects in March, focusing in three distinct directions: Model A dealing with expansion of the Home Care services to rural areas, Model B dealing with innovative services in existing programmes (for instance meals-on-wheels service for Home Care beneficiaries who are also Soup kitchen beneficiaries) and Model C dealing with identifying and then providing a key missing service within the local context (for instance geronto-maids or transport to hospital). The review of the activities of these projects is scheduled for early July and it will focus on implementation, budget expenditure, reporting and potential

revision of plans. All the projects are planned to be finalised by December when the achievements and the tangible changes made in local communities will be reviewed.

2. Home Care Programme Council and inter-branch support

To improve inter-branch support mechanism and ensure the experience and expertise within the programme to be tapped for the benefit of all, the preparations have been made to form a 'Council' within the programme. This body will consist of people from the field and outside of the management structure – good, experienced branch people, beneficiaries interested in participating, interested 'experts'. The purpose of this body is to steer the future development of the programme and make it more of a discussion-based, bottom-up lead process, rather than top-down, management driven one. So far, the discussions were held with eight persons and the first meeting tentatively scheduled for July.

Inter-branch support meetings are going to be regional meetings where stronger branches and weaker ones can work together on programme-related topics. They are meant to use the local/regional potential and facilitate knowledge/experience sharing. The first one is tentatively scheduled for September and will deal with the Conference of Towns Small Projects Grants Programme.

Both of these activities were planned to happen earlier in the year. The dissolution of the National Society, however affected this process as well.

Sustainability

Following the market study done last year, Kragujevac branch has launched a 'Commercial Home Care programme' activity. This project is essentially about using the experiences, skills and contacts from the Home Care programme to reach the paying customers and provide services for money. This money is to be used to support the activities in the core, non-commercial Home Care programme and ensure the expansion and sustainability of the activities targeting the most vulnerable.

The Kragujevac branch has done the assessment of the local market, followed it up with the appropriate training of staff (33 persons now having official certificates of a geronto-maid) as well as equipment procurement. This activity was followed with the marketing campaign (distribution of leaflets, television and radio advertisements) emphasising the advantages of using the Red Cross for these services over other 'freelancing' agents (reliability, accountability, the humanitarian use of profit made) and now the branch is providing paid services for a small number of households in Kragujevac. Far from making any substantial profit at this point, Kragujevac branch is focusing on providing good quality, high safety level services which they hope will give them an edge over the majority of grey market service providers. At the end of the year a review of this pilot programme will be done and a set of guidelines is to be provided for other branches interested in similar activities.

Advocacy

The advocacy network 'Humanas', a network of non-governmental organisations (including the Red Cross of Serbia as a founding member) dealing with the elderly population, has continued meeting and addressing the government on behalf of their beneficiaries. The network met to discuss the national plan of action and the role of humanitarian and non-governmental organisations in its implementation. The SEE Regional Programme Manager, HAI SEEN, Ljubljana, Slovenia, invited as a guest speaker, emphasised the importance of the network, pointing out this is the only network of its type in the region. Another guest speaker was the policy Development Manager for HelpAge International UK, who gave a presentation on social pensions.

Outside of Humanas work, the Red Cross has made regular appearances on national radio and television, discussing the importance of the programme, the new developments (bonus projects) and the overall issue of volunteering (with participation of the volunteers in the broadcast). The Red Cross of Serbia Home Care programme coordinators also participated in meetings organised by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), discussing the national input into UN Millennium Goals. Also, the coordinators participated in the 7th National Gerontological Congress with international participants. They were part of the organisation board as well as moderators for the discussion on voluntary and humanitarian work. They also did two presentations, covering the Home Care work of the Red Cross of Serbia and the Humanas activities.

Impact

The programme has provided constant care and assistance to more than 9,000 vulnerable beneficiaries. The pressure on the health and social welfare systems is enormous due to the situation in the country. Red Cross programmes such as this, based on the work of dedicated, trained volunteers, contribute to improved health, social situation and dignity of life of the most vulnerable individuals.

In the reporting period, the reassessment of needs and capacities done in branches, relying on participation of beneficiaries and other local interested parties brought better understanding of what needs to be done and by who. In turn, this produced some genuinely inspired local bonus projects (cooperation between Red Cross and medical centre in Bor producing a completely redesigned approach to health care for the older people; weaving and knitting workshops in Rakovica, based on skills sharing and mutual assistance between beneficiaries and young volunteers) and also projects that make visible difference in local communities (mostly Home care services extended to rural areas in 13 municipalities that sorely lacked any kind of assistance to older people). Full impact, efficiency, local ownership and sustainability remain to be evaluated at the end of the year. So far, it is obvious that most branches need close monitoring and coaching in order to be effective and efficient in their project activities.

The advocacy activities mentioned above satisfyingly reinforced Red Cross of Serbia's position as one of the leading agencies in elderly care, recognised by the government and third sector. The actual influence on the society and government will increase with the stabilisation of the overall situation in years to come.

Constraints

On one hand, the end of the state union with all its stages meant that most of the advocacy work done by the third sector is at best laying foundations for the future. The immediate impact of most of the activities is close to zero since most government officials and bodies are occupied with matters of a different nature. This also means that the implementation of initiatives such as Poverty Reduction Strategy in both republics was sluggish at best and non-existent at worst.

Similarly, the Red Cross work was in large part hostage to the process of disintegration of the National Society. This accounted for the slower than planned implementation of certain activities while others went as planned. In the second half of the year, however, the process of constitutional procedures, as both Red Cross of Montenegro and Red Cross of Serbia become independent National Societies, will probably affect programme activities as well.

Social Welfare Expected Result: Education and social participation of Roma children, and children with disabilities in Serbia and Montenegro has been improved through continuing work with 1,500 Roma and disabled children and their families.

The Social Welfare programme (SWP) entered 2006 with 71 fully operational local projects, its two main projects branches targeting vulnerable Roma preschool children and children with disabilities. The programme was funded multilaterally through the Federation delegation and bilaterally through the Danish Red Cross. Substantial donors in this reporting period were the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the European Agency for Reconstruction, the Danish Red Cross, and the Danish Embassy. There are 71 local projects located in 57 municipalities of Serbia and Montenegro (62 local projects in 49 municipalities of Serbia and 9 local projects in 8 municipalities of Montenegro).

In the **Open kindergarten for Roma and other children from socially deprived families project** there are 35 local projects, covering 32 municipalities of Serbia and Montenegro (32 local projects in 30 municipalities of Serbia and 3 local projects in 2 municipalities of Montenegro) encompassing 620 Roma preschool children, 409 Roma elementary school students (grade 1 to 4) and around 500 parents and siblings. The project seeks to change the attitude of the Roma towards education, prepare children for school and enable them to use their full potential. Red Cross volunteers and professionals work with children and help them prepare for the mainstream school environment, familiarise with the use of school accessories, and develop trust and willingness to start primary education.

Roma children of age three to seven attend Red Cross kindergartens up to 20 hours per week. Older children and non-Roma children are included where appropriate. Teachers, supported by the Red Cross volunteers and staff, work within the school-preparation educational programme based on the official curricula of the Ministry of Education and Sport that was adapted to fit the target group specifics. Learning activities were designed to support the development of majority population language skills, hygiene related habits, social skills, understanding of basic mathematical concepts, grapho-motoric, artistic and physical skills. Where needed, teachers use individualised approach to children.

The parents are motivated to understand the importance and potential benefits of their children getting proper (and legally obligatory) education through meetings and communication with volunteers/teachers.

In the **Support to youth with disabilities project** there are 36 local projects in 36 municipalities of Serbia and Montenegro (30 in Serbia and 6 in Montenegro) encompassing 827 young people with disabilities and 526 parents and siblings, 1,353 direct beneficiaries in total.

The volunteer-based educational programme in this project aims to encourage and facilitate the social integration of disabled children and their everyday life skills development, since in many cases families keep disabled children indoors, away from the public eye thus excluding them from any kind of 'proper' social life.

Young people with disabilities attend the Red Cross support programme up to 20 hours per week. Facilitators, supported by the Red Cross volunteers and staff, conduct various educational and psycho-social support activities with them, based on the nature of handicap and the group characteristics. These educational activities were designed to support the development of practical and social skills that led to increased self-confidence. Support programmes have been mainly organised for family members to improve their coping skills and reduce stress. Where needed, facilitators use individualised approach to children.

The parents are supported in care for their children and in engaging in more open communication with those parts of the community that offer support. This kind of support is provided through meetings and workshops with parents.

Activities

The new project description for the Roma kindergarten project has been drafted. To ensure it fits the reality and the needs in the field, interviews and input sessions were held with the Red Cross branches staff before drafting. Additionally, their feedback was sought before the final draft has been finalised. The document is in line with proposal for the new law on preschool education in Serbia and the Government Plan of Action for Roma education. This document also emphasises the distinction between five components of the project: preschool (day care), preschool preparatory programme, homework support programme, parents support programme and integration programme. Although these components existed from the very beginning of the project implementation, the distinction has not been underlined. This, however, became very important in the light of the educational reform in Serbia which assumes obligatory 'preschool preparatory programme' for all children before they enrol into the first grade of elementary school (see constraints section). The project description is to be agreed among key staff from the implementing National Society, Danish Red Cross and the Federation programme staff and shared with all branches afterwards to line up the views on the project concept.

A new record keeping, monitoring and reporting system has been developed for the implementing branches of the Roma kindergarten project, following the recommendations of the external evaluation and the 'baseline study' report. It will be introduced in July. The reporting system has been updated to fit the new project concept and enable the Red Cross of Serbia and the Red Cross of Montenegro to provide stakeholders with detailed information on the project implementation, impact and information on beneficiaries.

Intensive work has been carried out to liaise with the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Roma National Council, seeking their advice on various aspects of the project. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation initiated a meeting between the representatives of the Education board of the government of Serbia and the representatives of the NGOs running projects related to Roma education and funded by the Swiss government where the project of the Red Cross of Serbia and the Federation has been presented to the members of Parliament of the Republic of Serbia.

One hundred Roma children, beneficiaries of the project, will attend summer school in Baošić in June and August. It is expected that such activity will be a motivational factor for Roma children to study better, for Roma parents to support schooling of their children and a good example of integrative activity. It will raise the public image of the Red Cross and will contribute to the positioning of the Red Cross of Serbia in the field of Roma education.

Planned activities for the next six months

- Defining the minimal requirements for the local projects;
- Developing the new record keeping, monitoring and reporting system for the Support to children with disabilities project;
- Developing the standardised curriculum for the Roma kindergarten project;
- Aligning the Roma kindergarten project with the new law on Education;
- Developing the stimulation funding model for branch projects;
- Setting the steering committee for the projects.

Impact

The new project description aligned the views of implementing branches, HQ and donors on the project. The concept of the psychosocial support where the activities were the focus was changed into objective directed project management system. Now the outcomes and effects are in the foreground. Some time will be needed to demonstrate the significance of this transition and prove the superiority of the new approach.

The new record keeping, monitoring and reporting system will enable the HQ to provide the relevant stakeholders with detailed information on the project they are interested in and to demonstrate the impact of the project activities in quantitative measures. Consequently, this should present Red Cross as a serious partner in the field of Roma education, accelerate partnership-building with key government institutions and hopefully attract more international and local funding. The new record keeping system is also a prerequisite for introduction of the more fair funding model that is based on scope and quality of work of the branches comparing to the current flat rate monthly support. Agreement of all parties involved in the project implementation (branches, HQ, partners and donors) on the joint logframe and the project concept will hopefully move the focus of staff and volunteers from 'implementation of activities' to 'achieving the results'.

Constraints

Following the external evaluation of the Social welfare programme that took place in 2005, the Federation delegation and the Danish RC initiated standardisation of the curriculum for the Roma kindergarten project. However, the process has been put on hold, since the new curriculum has been announced by the Ministry of Education and Sports of the Republic of Serbia.

The new Law on preschool education and reform of education in Serbia may affect the project set up and implementation. Key issues are compulsory registration of preschool institutions and issuing of certificates to children for completed preschool preparatory programme. All partners involved are exploring possible solutions. Ministry of Education and Sports will have a key advisory role.

Withdrawal of the Spanish Red Cross from supporting of the children with disabilities project with no exit strategy once again put an emphasis on importance of sustainability issues and coordination.

Health Promotion Expected Result: Public awareness of the benefits of healthy lifestyles is raised through health promotion activities which encourage a more strategic approach and position the National Society as an auxiliary to government.

Activities

The Federation support to the health promotion programme of the Red Cross of Serbia, funded by Norwegian Red Cross continued in 2006 with the focus on HIV prevention. Two local projects were started, in Mladenovac and Niš branches. The project in Mladenovac focuses on training of peer educators, setting up peer education programme and setting up the 'Pandora's Box' counselling service for youth. The project in Niš focuses on

producing a short animated film on HIV and a series of educational lectures in elementary schools. The CD containing the film will be available to all the Red Cross branches in Serbia and Montenegro.

The Federation delegation is preparing a call for proposal for the branches on health promotion related projects. The call will be launched in early September.

A project concept aiming to increase the visibility of the RC volunteers engaged in the health promotion projects is being prepared.

The internal evaluation of HIV related local projects implemented in 2005 is in preparation. Completion planned for mid August.

Manual 'Action with Youth', very much appreciated by youth peer educators of the Red Cross in Serbia and Montenegro, has been revised, updated and adapted to local needs and is being printed at the moment. Delegation has commissioned translation of the 'Positive Development' manual, which focuses on involvement of people living with HIV in implementation of HIV related projects. Both manuals will be available in both hard and digital copies for all Red Cross branches in Serbia and Montenegro.

The training and educational programmes in the field of health promotion for youth volunteers and children are in preparation.

Impact

Implementation of different HIV related projects by municipal Red Cross branches across the country keeps focus of the branches and the HQ on HIV during the whole year rather than just on special dates. As a result, increased commitment of the HQ to new approaches in HIV related activities is noticeable. It is also expected that manuals on HIV will inspire youth volunteers to increase the number of peer-education programmes, like it happened in 2001 after publishing the first edition of 'Action with youth' manual in Serbian. The launch of call for proposals will provide an overview of needs and capacities of the Red Cross branches to implement health promotion projects and help the HQ to prioritise and structure work in this field.

Constraints

Unclear funding situation from September and beyond.

Disaster Management

The National Society reached awareness of the need to restructure its disaster preparedness system in order to make it cheaper for maintenance and more effective in deployment. This kicked off the discussions on the new disaster preparedness doctrine in the national Red Cross. However, this initiative will only be properly put in practice once the restructuring of the Red Cross (two new National Societies in near future) is done. In the meantime, the Municipal Disaster Preparedness Programme continues its work on improved local coordination in disasters, gaining more experience and support from the responsible national officials. The work with asylum seekers continues as well as the continuing vocational training programme for refugees opting for local integration. Two new activities in the area of population movement are work with returned asylum seekers from Western Europe and anti-trafficking. All of the work described in this section (barring the anti-trafficking activities funded bilaterally by Norwegian Red Cross and floods response funded through a separate appeal) are funded through the Federation by Norwegian Red Cross.

Overall Goal: The country's most vulnerable refugees and socially vulnerable people maintain their dignity, their minimum living standards and are well nourished. The effects of local and national disasters are mitigated by a rapid, well resourced and coordinated response mechanism.

Programme Objective: The National Society continues to provide cost effective direct assistance to beneficiaries in need while strengthening its capacity to be prepared for and respond to emergency situations

Disaster Preparedness Expected Result: Increased capacity to be prepared for and respond to emergency situations is achieved through additional training and equipment. The National Disaster Response Agency, with the Red Cross as one of the key actors, is established. The position of the National Society (NS) within the National Disaster Preparedness System is made clear.

The new disaster preparedness concept in the National Society

The Disaster Preparedness programme will experience significant changes in the months to come. At the beginning of the year the Disaster Preparedness Commission at federal level of the National Society initiated implementation of several key documents that were missing since the programme introduction in 2000. Standard operating procedures in Disaster Management, together with the proposal to have Management Team instead of the DP commission at federal level have been discussed, in an effort to improve the setup and performance. The commission had in mind the necessity to set the programme on a more practical, operational basis, especially with the possibility of a split between republics in the state union in the near future. At the same time it tried to preserve the necessary minimum of joint concept for cooperation and coordination. The two republican DP commissions will be responsible for presenting their views of the proposed changes at republic level or to recommend a completely new concept of the programme in near future.

Also, the need to form several teams of regional DP trainers in both Serbia and Montenegro was identified. A new training cycle for the Disaster Response Units in the branches should follow. The last time training for some of the branches was done in 2002, and many of the volunteers trained at that time are not with the units any more. The new concept will have improved and innovative programme and will be based regionally meaning that the cost for the training will be much lower than courses done in past years. If there is enough funding the Federation will assist in providing some training equipment and will support training of trainers. This will enable Red Cross to roll out the series of regional trainings for the DR units in the two new countries.

The split

Trying to go in line with broader events, the Executive Board of the Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross Society approved the proposal to split disaster preparedness equipment at federal level which included the propositioned DP stock and the equipment in the main DP warehouse at the beginning of April. The equipment was split following the 7:1 criteria where applicable (7 to Serbia, 1 to Montenegro). The process is still ongoing for the equipment that will need to be further approved by the National Society executive board. The Federal DR Unit which was best equipped and trained was disassembled and their equipment divided between two republics.

Floods 2006

Following the melting of snow and heavy spring rains, floods and landslides hit 30 municipalities all over Serbia. Since the beginning of April the water level of several rivers in Serbia has been on the constant rise. On April the 13th, the water in the river Danube reached the highest level ever recorder: 760 cm.

The National Society responded utilising municipal branches' disaster response units where applicable and providing food, hygienic items and clothes/blankets to the affected population.

The Federation delegation in Belgrade has been granted use of DREF funds, totalling to CHF 128,150, following the request for assistance from the Red Cross of Serbia to assist 7,165 families in total, affected by both landslides and floods. Please refer to the appropriate DREF bulletins for more detailed information.

Equipping for future response

Since the floods are likely to be a serious threat in years to come, as they certainly were in the last two, six river boats, two boat engines and two riverboat trailers were provided by the Federation to the Red Cross of Serbia to be used in such circumstances but also will be used in other Disaster Management activities (e.g. Water Rescue Units).

Municipal disaster preparedness simulations

The Municipal Disaster Preparedness Programme is about improving coordination between disaster preparedness/response actors at municipal level. The Federation supports Red Cross in organising tabletop simulations involving representatives of all relevant municipal institutions and services and through these simulations the existing system is tested and improved. The average number of participants per simulation is 18. Representatives of the interested ministries such as Ministry of Health and Ministry of Interior participate at some

of the exercises providing an overview of the progress in their Ministry concerning achievements in disaster response from their end. The project objectives and the previous experience are presented at each simulation as well as the disaster response capacities of the National Society and both Red Cross of Serbia and Red Cross of Montenegro. For each of the simulations a scenario is developed according to risks analysis and disaster history, in order to provide believable and plausible situations and solutions. The majority of participants at every simulation agree that it is essential to establish a municipal disaster management team managed by the municipality with representatives from all key services including the Red Cross.

Five simulations were organised in Serbia and unfortunately none in Montenegro so far due to the focus of the Red Cross of Montenegro on other issues. The simulations that were held involved members from each public service/institution responsible for disaster preparedness/response: Medical Emergency Service, Fire Brigade, Police Department, Civil Protection, local government, and Red Cross. Discussions regarding two simulations in Montenegro are ongoing. So far it is reasonably certain that one municipality to have the simulation will be Bijelo Polje which was planned for late April but then postponed indefinitely.

Some of the municipalities that had simulations in the last two years have been later experiencing some kind of disaster. The table below is giving the details of the institutions engaged in the specific disaster, the year of the simulation performed followed with the year of the disaster and the municipality where it occurred.

Municipalities	Type of disaster	Year of simulation	Year of disaster	Institutions involved	Affected population
Paracin	Floods/Landslides	2006	2006	All	20 families
Podgorica	Train accident	2005	2006	All	45 people dead over 200 injured
Brus	Floods/Landslides	2006	2006	All	63 families
Sabac	Floods/Landslides	2005	2006	All	1667 families
Pancevo	Floods/Landslides	2006	2006	All	250 families
Valjevo	Floods/Landslides	2004	2006	All	56 families

The municipal institutions that were involved in the actual response on their territory had the opportunity to apply some of the knowledge gained in the workshops organised through Municipal Disaster Preparedness Programme. It is also worth noting that the cooperation between all actors but especially municipal government and the local Red Cross branches was very good in all the aspects of disaster response. The Red Cross Disaster Response units in the above mentioned disasters took part in a variety of activities: from life-saving (disaster that happened in Montenegro-Podgorica) to providing assistance and shelter for evacuated people in case of floods and landslides. The Red Cross proved to be a reliable partner to the local governments and institutions in case of disasters as it was presented in the simulations organised through Municipal Disaster Preparedness Programme.

Follow-up meetings

Additionally, one follow-up meeting was held in one municipality where the simulations had taken place earlier. As the follow-up meetings serve to assess the effects and impact of the simulation in the particular community, a questionnaire was prepared to do the more in-depth analysis and collect comparable data from all the municipalities where the simulations were done. The collected data so far demonstrated improvements in municipal-level coordination between agencies (better defined procedures, response times, separation of duties etc.), as stated by their heads, in about half the communities analysed.

Impact

Red Cross is no longer an isolated disaster preparedness actor. In municipalities where the simulations were completed there is a far deeper understanding of roles and responsibilities of each interested party with a place for and expectation from the Red Cross to make its contribution. Moreover, the republic authorities take an active role in this project, participating in local meetings and simulations. This ensures a good position for the Red Cross in the future national disaster preparedness bodies and legislation in both new countries. It is hoped that this pilot project will ultimately serve as blueprint for structuring a government endorsed programme for the improvement of disaster management coordination.

Inter-agency cooperation is the essence of the Municipal Disaster Preparedness project as its objectives are to improve coordination between different actors. At municipal level, representatives of emergency health service, police, fire department and local government all take part in the simulation, while the representatives of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Interior also join as observers. At the moment, in Serbia, preparations for creation of the government-lead disaster preparedness/response agency are in the works and Red Cross is considered to be one of the key members. This is confirmed by having Red Cross participate in the work of the working group drafting the new law on disaster preparedness in Serbia.

Constraints

Besides uncertain future funding, political instability is another potentially dangerous factor. Change of administration often leads to change of many of the key staff in the services relevant for this programme, as well as policies and procedures. Also, the change in the National Society structure, the dissolving of the Federal disaster response unit and the split of the DP equipment will influence the future efficiency of the Disaster Preparedness/Response programmes in both the Red Cross of Serbia and the Red Cross of Montenegro.

Population Movement Expected Result: Asylum seekers are protected by appropriate legal framework; their accommodation conditions and treatment are improved.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Serbia and Montenegro and Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross Society (SMRCS) was signed at the end of December 2005. This memorandum describes the cooperation between government and Red Cross in provision of information to the failed asylum-seekers/returnees in terms of their reintegration. Therefore, SMRCS extended its population movement programme assistance to rejected asylum seekers returning from the west-European countries under the readmission procedure between them and Serbia and Montenegro. In addition, detained asylum seekers in Serbia, who are waiting for the repatriation, are still the main beneficiaries of the programme, supported in close collaboration with responsible partners in the country.

Since August 2005, SMRCS has implemented an awareness project on trafficking in human beings among its local secretaries and Youth members. There were also activities in this field with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro, other authorities and local NGO ASTRA, specialized in anti-trafficking. The SMRCS is member of National Anti-Trafficking Team, comprised of governmental agencies and NGOs.

At international level, SMRCS has continued with its active engagement within the European Council for Refugees and Exile (ECRE) and Platform for European RC Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO) and its Steering Group in full membership capacity.

Activities

Detained irregular migrants

SMRCS has conducted regular visits to the Shelter for Aliens, namely the centre for irregular foreign migrants in Padinska Skela, near Belgrade, once a month since March 2004 when the Memorandum of Understanding about it was signed with Serbian Ministry of Interior. The occupants of the Centre are waiting for repatriation. During the visits (six times in the period of January-June 2006), representatives of the Society have been able to speak with them in privacy in order to find out their needs and review their treatment by detention authorities. In this regard, Red Cross has distributed relief packages containing hygienic products, underwear and phone cards (to facilitate restoration of family links). The distribution of phone cards has been appreciated highly by the beneficiaries. For the period of January-May 2006, numbers and origin of the visited persons were:

C o u n t r y of origin	Number
Albania	26
Armenia	1
Bosnia	2
Croatia	1
Egypt	4
Georgia	3
Italy	1
Macedonia	3
Moldova	12
Mongolia	1
Rumania	15
Russia	2
Tunisia	4
Turkey	9
Ukraine	1
15 countries	85

Failed asylum seekers/ returnees

Thanks to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Serbia and Montenegro (signed in December 2005), SMRCS set up its presence at the Belgrade International Airport welcoming failed asylum seekers/returnees from European countries. Together with the representatives of the Ministry, RC staff provides leaflets containing important information for the beginning of their reintegration process. The leaflets were printed in Serbian and Roma languages by SMRCS. According to the latest official figures, in average 100 persons per month return to the country this way.

Impact

Authorities are supportive of SMRCS activities and respond positively to the Society's advocacy actions in favour of the irregular and vulnerable migrants in the country and abroad. So far, the National Society has been recognized as a focal point for the assistance to foreign migrants within the civil sector in Serbia and Montenegro. Thanks to its advantages and capacities, SMRCS fits easily into the existing network of NGOs engaged in the field of anti-trafficking in Serbia. It also became a member of National Anti-Trafficking Team coordinating its activities with other members and promoting them, too.

Constraints

As a result of Serbia and Montenegro parting ways, the National Society in its present form will cease to exist in near future. So far, all the above enlisted activities have been conducted from the HQ level of SMRCS. More to the point, they have been coordinated from the International Department by one staff member, assisted by another employee from the Red Cross of Serbia and volunteers from SMRCS Working Group on Migration. For the purpose of anti-trafficking project, one person was assigned to work, on one-year basis (her contract ending July 2006). At the time of writing it is not known how the future National Societies (Serbian and Montenegrin) plan to take over the activities.

Vocational training for refugees Expected Result: The quality of life of the 300 refugees and their families who have opted for local integration is improved and their capacity to support themselves is increased.

To enable refugees who have opted for local integration to compete on the labour market (increasing their self-sufficiency), the Federation supports the National Society in implementing a programme of vocational training to refugees. The choice of actual skills is made in co-operation with National Employment Agency branches, based on their statistics of skills currently sought on the labour market. The Red Cross is co-ordinating the training, the selection of beneficiaries and, most important of all, the follow-up. The training courses started in January 2005. Two training cycles were completed in 2005 with the third starting in 2005 and ending in 2006. Currently, the fourth training cycle is taking place. There are eight municipalities running the programme with more than 120 participants per cycle. The following table shows the range of provided courses and the number of participants across eight municipalities:

RC branch	Provided vocational training courses	Total participants
Cukarica (fourth cycle)	Driving courses C	10
	Training program for people working with persons with special needs	10
Zvezdara (third cycle)	Training program for people working with persons with special needs	10
Sombor (fourth cycle)	Driving courses C	10
	Language course	10
Stara Pazova (fourth cycle)	Fiscal cash register maintenance	34
Ruma (fourth cycle)	Fiscal cash register maintenance	20
Sabac (fourth cycle)	Business secretary	30
Kragujevac (third cycle)	Hair dresser	11
Nis (fourth cycle)	Business secretary	30
Grand Total		175

Impact

So far the success has been encouraging, taking into account the general level of unemployment in the country. Over 50 per cent of all the trained beneficiaries have been able to find employment within ninety days of completing training. In the last two training cycles 95 out of 159 participants of training have managed to find employment so far, which makes for 60 per cent.

Constraints

The situation with employment in general is not improving, which naturally means difficulties for the beneficiaries of this project as well.

Organisational Development

The organisational development work in practice mostly consisted of assistance in implementation of the work from the previous OD cycle. The National Society requested support in practical application of assets acquired through finance development and IT & Communication projects and this support was provided in line with the Management Support plan of activities. The new organisational development activities, in line with the planning process done in 2004, covering five priority areas, as described in the appeal, have not been started yet. The National Society has been very much preoccupied with preparations for the split and the subsequent creation of two new National Societies and the Federation's support in this process was requested only sparingly and with great caution. All of the activities described in this section are funded through the Federation by Norwegian Red Cross.

Overall Goal: A well structured, well functioning National Society is efficiently responding to the changing needs in the society, provides timely, efficient support to vulnerable population and is able to adapt to the changes in the environment.

Programme Objective: The National Society has devised, adopted and put into common use standard financial and managerial procedures and tools.

Human resources and public relations Expected Result: By the end of 2006, the National Society has developed and adopted strategies on human resources and public relations. The staff throughout the organisation has been trained in public relations which contributes to better visibility and public image of Red Cross.

Practically no work was done to follow up the planning activities done in late 2004/early 2005. While the National Society at all levels acknowledges the importance of the issues, there was no practical commitment to these activities.

The activities taking place were the continuation of the work related to youth and volunteering issues.

Key achievement in volunteering and youth that marked this reporting period was the produced draft of the Code of Rules for Youth Volunteers of the Red Cross in Serbia. This code is in line with the Federation Youth Policy and Volunteering Policy. The key features of this document are: definitions of volunteering and membership; highlighted role of youth volunteers in the Red Cross work; set framework for Red Cross youth programme with focus on promotion of human values, health and safety, community services and international friendship. The document also sets healthy foundations for the introduction of volunteer management practices and reporting within the youth programme.

The Code of Rules for Youth Volunteers draft is now being discussed by the branches of the Red Cross of Serbia. After receiving feedback from the branches, it will be sent to the members of the board for adoption.

Manual for Youth Volunteers has been finalised. It is being prepared for printing at the moment.

The Code of Rules for Youth Volunteers makes clear distinction between the Red Cross volunteers and members. It is hoped that this will raise awareness of branches regarding these two important roles that young people have in the Red Cross. In addition, the document outlines the record keeping system on volunteers and their engagement in the Red Cross activities as well as the reporting procedures. Once the system is developed and in place (by the end of 2006) it will enable the HQ to collect, analyse and present the detailed information on the RC youth and their achievement in the humanitarian work to the stakeholders and donors, hopefully attracting funding for future activities.

Management support Expected Result: The National Society has devised, adopted and put into common use standard financial and managerial procedures and tools allowing for more efficient use of resources, better accountability towards donors and faster adaptability to changing environments.

The Finance Development and IT & Communications projects were started in Serbia and Montenegro at different times. In practice, the projects in Serbia were ending at the time when the projects in Montenegro were starting. Acknowledging the differences between the Red Cross organisations in the two republics, as well as the notably different financial and communicational environments, the projects in Montenegro still used a lot of the experiences from the implementation in Serbia and therefore took less time.

The Red Cross of Serbia started 2006 with the projects officially in end phase. Most of the work done since January was about putting the newly developed resources into practical use. For the **IT & Communications** part, the Federation provided support in the re-arrangement of the incoming telephone lines for the Red Cross of Serbia HQ, as well as the ongoing support to the restructuring and redesign of the Red Cross of Serbia website. The draft version of the new website has been created and is in the test phase currently. The website will be maintained and updated by a volunteer-webmaster, supposing to start at the end of June.

As for the **Finance Development**, the bulk of the work had to do with ensuring that the HUBIE-erp management software package gets practical application and not end up just an optional asset. After the training for all the branches supposed to take over this package in the rollout phase, it was assessed that further hardware upgrade is necessary in all of the IT centres (five of them in the Red Cross of Serbia) and the HQ. Also, deeper training was needed for the staff at these centres (administration, maintenance as well as specific finance software training). This was provided in parallel with final adjustments made to the HUBIE-erp software package so that the software manufacturer has full awareness of the specifications the software has to meet as well as provide assistance with training. Currently, with upgrade done, the training is in progress. The software manufacturer has committed to provide one month of assistance to the Red Cross of Serbia in terms of software adjustments as well as accounting

issues. At the end of the period the HUBIE-erp software should be in full use in all five IT centres and 17 pilot branches with other 68 rollout branches catching up by the end of the year.

The Red Cross of Montenegro received the IT equipment (PCs, servers, network equipment) and had the training (Win/Office) for fifteen persons completed in January. This meant that the **IT & Communications** project was practically finished. However, the set up of email communication and, moreover, creation of an awareness what the new communicational capacity is good for is another thing. Currently, 40 per cent of Red Cross of Montenegro branches use e-mail. The Federation maintains its efforts to encourage the use of electronic communication.

The **Finance Development** project, however, demanded further hardware upgrades (mostly RAM modules) and adjustments of the HUBIE-erp package in line with the results of the testing in the three IT centres in the Red Cross of Montenegro. The hardware for the upgrades was provided in May and was followed by the installation of the updated version of the software package. The transition of branches to the new accounting and financial management model is gradual and carefully slow. The leading branches are, unsurprisingly the strongest branches in Montenegro: Kotor, Herceg Novi and Podgorica. They have already started doing their finances using HUBIE-erp modules with other branches required to provide monthly reports on the implementation of the software modules.

With both the Red Cross of Serbia and the Red Cross of Montenegro being on their way to becoming National Societies, both having Red Cross laws passed in recent past (November 2005 in Serbia, April 2006 in Montenegro), good financial and other management, transparency and accountability are crucial to their relationships to their respective governments, existing and potential partners and donors. The described activities are all parts of the work done to lay healthy foundations for these organisations to position themselves properly in the years to come.

Commercial First Aid training Expected Result: National Society has fully developed first aid training activities that bring in sufficient funds at local branch level to support the delivery of essential community services.

The Red Cross of Serbia had their Commercial First Aid training project accepted by Belgian Red Cross and this is now a bilaterally supported activity. The Federation still plans to assist the Red Cross of Montenegro in developing their own programme when the organisation completes the priority tasks linked to the transition in their status.

Coordination and Implementation

As already mentioned above, most of the priorities for the National Society and its parts were linked to the dissolution of the state union and subsequent split of the National Society in two separate organisations both aspiring to become fully functional and fully recognised National Societies as soon as possible. The legal basis for this, Red Cross laws in both republics, meaning full recognition by the public as well as clearly defined roles, were both in part result of the Federation consultation and advocacy.

Arguably, the most important Federation contribution in this area, at least in relation to programmes, is the work done to ensure longer-term funding and nurture firmer relationships with donors. Most of the funding still originates in the international Red Cross family but examples of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (still the sole non-movement donor to the Appeal) and their two and a half-year commitment to supporting the Social Welfare Programme, with European Agency for Reconstruction acting as a bilateral donor to Roma-related activities, are encouraging. At the same time, long-term donors like British Red Cross (three year commitment to supporting Home Care programme) and Norwegian Red Cross (still bound by the one-year funding cycle of their back donor, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs but committed to continuing funding to organisational development, disaster management, health and care and population movement programmes) are taking a far more active role in programme planning, design and development.

The immediate future for the Red Cross in Serbia and Montenegro will be marked by substantial changes in status and position in the newly formed independent countries. The Federation presence is a valuable asset, essential for both new national Red Crosses and the ways to get the maximum out of the current set up need to be identified.

This will ensure smooth transition for both Red Crosses and the continuing improvement of their work with the vulnerable population.

[The Kosovo Programme Update and Interim Financial Report for Serbia & Montenegro/Kosovo is below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

KOSOVO

In Brief

Programme summary:

Programme implementation started very slowly due to a significant lack of financial resources. By the end of May, the Kosovo part of the 2006/2007 appeal was only funded at 19 percent. Operations were sustained and a limited number of activities were implemented with carry-over funds from 2005. In response to this situation and the fact that it was very unlikely that all of the required funds for 2006 would be mobilized during the rest of the year, the Federation conducted a review exercise to re-evaluate the expected results and related activities in order to prioritize its support to the local Red Cross organisations. This resulted in an appeal revision process which is to be concluded in July and will represent a better focusing of Federation resources in Kosovo on key areas and activities which will further enhance the capacities of the local Red Cross organisations to deliver quality services for the most vulnerable. In addition, the revision of the appeal will be used as an opportunity to more consciously align the Kosovo programme with the Global Agenda goals.

Federation supported programme implementation accelerated its pace during May.

It is important to note that there is an outstanding need to cover the full programme for 2006 for which the Federation is still seeking assistance from donors. This need will be re-evaluated following the appeal revision.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Kosovo: Gunther Pratz, Head of Office, email: gunther.pratz@ifrc.org; phone+ 381.38.224.283
- In Budapest: Caroline Mawdsley, Acting Head of Offices, email: caroline.mawdsley@ifrc.org; phone: +361.248.33.00
- In Geneva: Erja Reinikainen, Regional Officer, Europe Department, email: erja.reinikainen@ifrc.org; phone +41.22.730.43.19, fax: +41.22.733.03.95

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

The issue of resolving the status of Kosovo remains one of the most important issues in Kosovo. Following the decision of the UN Security Council in late 2005 to enter into the political process and determine the 'final' status of Kosovo and the appointment of a UN Special Envoy to facilitate and guide the process, negotiations began in early 2006. The international community indicated its determination to finalize the process within the year.

The first talks, scheduled for 25 January in Vienna, were delayed due to the death of President Ibrahim Rugova of lung cancer. The state funeral took place on 26 January and was attended by many international delegations. In February, the Kosovo Assembly elected the moderate law professor Fatmir Sejdiu as its new president, who promised to follow Rugova's path to independence.

The UN mediated status talks commenced in February in Vienna. The initial meetings between the two delegations did not tackle the sensitive issue of Kosovo's final status but focused on technical issues such as reforming Kosovo's local government (decentralization) to ensure greater autonomy for minority communities and the protection of the Serbian cultural and religious objects. While the four meetings on decentralization failed to achieve a compromise particularly in relation to the establishment of new municipalities in the province, there was a large degree of consensus on the issue of protecting cultural and religious sites. It is expected that the first direct talks about the final status of Kosovo will be held in July or August.

March saw some significant political changes in Kosovo which were well received by the international community as it was hoped that particularly the new Prime Minister would be able to strengthen and improve the process of standard implementation, stabilize the PISG institutions and thus bring greater development to the province.

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 there was no direct impact of these events on the overall vulnerability of the population and thus the support to the local Red Cross organizations in assisting the vulnerable population and effective service delivery needs to remain active and strong, in particular since the opportunities for the local Red Cross organizations for income generation are limited and still need to be developed.

In February and March, Kosovo was affected by two waves of flooding due to melting snows and heavy rains. Both local RC organisations, with the support from the Federation and the ICRC, responded to the humanitarian needs of the affected population. The Federation allocated money for the minor emergency operation from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

In early June an agreement was signed to speed up the return of people displaced by the conflict in the province. The agreement seeks to boost returns through provisions that range from affording access to basic services to promoting integration of IDPs. It acknowledges that a successful process is based on three elements: ensuring safety of returnees; returning property to the displaced and rebuilding their houses; and creating an environment that sustains returns.

On 12 June, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Kosovo (SRSG) Søren Jessen-Petersen announced that he will be leaving his post at the end of June. He has been the longest serving SRSG (2 years) in the history of UNMIK and has been instrumental in some of the most important developments in Kosovo while under the administration of the UN. However, in recent months he had to fend off increasing criticism over his apparent closeness to local ethnic Albanian leaders in Kosovo and for not addressing alleged corruption issues.

Organisational Development

Overview

The Federation Office in Kosovo, through its Organizational Development Programme continues to strengthen the capacity of the two RC organisations in line with the Fundamental Principles, Strategy 2010 and the Global Agenda Goals. Also the emergence of one Red Cross organization in Kosovo is an integral part of the OD programme.

However, the overall implementation of the OD programme during the first half of the year has not been able to move in line with the planned timeframe. The main reason for this has been the limited financial response from the donors as well as too high expectations raised during the joint planning process with the local RC organisations in 2005. Thus, the focus of the OD programme during this reporting period has been to provide basic support in building the capacity of most sustainable components of the programme such as staff and volunteers as well as some basic improvement of working conditions for both the Red Cross of Kosova (RCK) and Red Cross of Kosovo and Metohija (RCKM). The below mentioned achievements were supported by the Swedish and Norwegian RC Societies.

There have been very clear indications during this period of time that currently neither the RC organisations nor the Federation have the capacity needed to implement all OD activities planned for 2006/07. Therefore, the Federation spent some time in doing analysis of the existing capacities and expected results to be achieved by the end of 2007 and decided to revise the Appeal 2006/07. This process is being done in cooperation and coordinated with both local RC organisations in order to agree on realistic targets and ensure full ownership.

Overall Goal: Better functioning Red Cross organisations with increased capacity to offer support to vulnerable groups including minorities.

Programme Objective: Improved management skills and structure of RC organizations with increased volunteer and programme capacity at all levels of organisation

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Expected Result 1: Strengthened management and governance structures and increased capacities of human resources, both volunteers and staff in HQ and branches and clear roles in all levels respected by all.

Support has been provided to both RCK and RCKM limited number of staff members at HQ and branch level for attending English language course. Better knowledge of English language will make easier for them to communicate with different international organizations in Kosovo and abroad as well as to participate in different events organized abroad. Other planned activities will start in the second part of the year as well as in 2007.

Expected Result 2: Improved financial system and financial management resources, with new procedures, trained personnel and computer software for accounting.

Several meetings have been organized between the Federation and RCK staff members to assess their current financial system. The need for improving and upgrading their financial software, as well as the need to have some new professional staff hired on a regional level was identified. Therefore, the Federation purchased computers for the new financial staff members which are to be hired in the coming months. Further, a training plan was drafted which includes training to the new finance officer as well the development of finance management capacities of the branch counterparts to the finance officers.

The activities planned for the remaining period of reporting timeframe include on-the-job training for the RCK HQ finance manager as well as to assist RCK HQ in providing relevant financial trainings for the new financial staff and branch staff as well as for upgrading the financial and human resource database/software.

Expected Result 3: A new volunteer management structure is established, with trained volunteers and members involved in ongoing and new programmes; and qualified RC trainers at the branch level, securing the availability of new volunteers in different activities.

Some very basic things, like a volunteer/membership recruitment questionnaire, have been developed and the remaining activities to achieve this expected result have been planned to start in the second half of the year and will be reported on accordingly.

Expected Result 4: Development of an adequate communication infrastructure including training for efficient use.

Lack of communication infrastructure within RCK and RCKM has in the past been one of the reasons for a lack of proper communication. In response, the Federation office in Kosovo, supported both RCK and RCKM with the provision of telephone lines and telephones with fax to some branches. Usage costs are not supported by the Federation and have to be borne by the branches. This assistance has resulted in improved and more effective communication between branches and HQ.

Expected Result 5: Some of the RC office working conditions are improved.

The work of both RC organisations was severely affected by either a total lack of or inappropriate equipment infrastructure. Thus, the Federation supported the RCK HQ Programme Coordinators with new computers and UPS. The new Youth Coordinator in RCKM HQ was also supported with a new computer in order to better facilitate her work. Even after a short time it is becoming visible that this support has resulted in improved efficiency of the programme coordinators in their work: more documents in digital version are now available and email communication has now been established with the majority of programme coordinators.

Expected Result 6: Stronger cooperation with local institutions, relevant Ministries as well as UN Agencies.

Constant efforts are being made by RCK in improving its cooperation with the local and international agencies and institutions. The Federation is assisting RCK in achieving these efforts by participating in various meetings with them and also advocating on the behalf of the RC and its humanitarian work done in the field. The Ministry of Health, UNDP, Kosovo Aids Committee, WHO and European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) are some of the potential partners already contacted by the RC and the Federation. This work is seen as very crucial as the establishing of stronger cooperation with local and international institutions will support the work of developing a Cooperation Agreement Strategy (see below).

Expected Result 7: Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) and commitment from partners is signed.

The development of a Cooperation Agreement Strategy for Kosovo remains one of the key expected results to be achieved. The initiation of this process depends primarily on the finalization of the long term Strategy of RCK (2006 – 2009) which is progressing very slowly. However, it is expected that the strategy will be finalized in the coming months and thus the second half of the year will see the start of the CAS process in Kosovo. Within the process it is important to take into account the current situation in Kosovo and the resolution of the final status of the province as this may have a direct impact on the conditions in Kosovo as well as the ability and willingness of partners to support the local RC structures.

Expected Result 8: Participation of RCK in international events, as well as regional visits, has helped in better cooperation with other NSs.

The possibility of meeting with other NS staff and volunteers to exchange knowledge and information has been a very good and successful mechanism used so far within the Movement. The Federation Office in Kosovo together with the Regional Delegation in Budapest have been heavily engaged in facilitating and arranging different events in the region. The participation of RCK in such events has not always been possible due to the non-recognition of the organization and the yet unclear political situation in Kosovo. However, whenever possible, the Federation supports RCK volunteers and RC key staff in participating in capacity building events organized in the region. In the reporting period this included the participation of the DM Coordinators from both local RC organisations in a regional meeting (in Croatia) and the participations three representatives (also from both organisations) in the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training, organized in Macedonia in May. In addition, the Youth Coordinator of RCK participated in a Youth Delegate Training conducted by the Finnish RC in Helsinki.

Expected Result 9: The process of creating the one Red Cross organisation in Kosovo is ongoing and joint activities have been implemented when possible.

Having two RC organizations operating in Kosovo remains an issue for the Federation and ICRC to work on. The Joint Working Group (JWG), a 'body' established to support the creation of one RC in Kosovo as well as to look for the possible joint projects to be implemented by both RC organizations is continuing to meet on a more or less regular basis. Through the efforts of the IFRC and the ICRC, the JWG concluded the year 2005 with the signing of a proposal on the joint implementation of a mobile clinic project. The project aims at bringing basic health care to areas where such services are not available. The services will be provided through a multi-ethnic team using an ambulance vehicle to reach the remote areas.

In order to start implementing the Mobile Clinic Project, some administrative issues had to be clarified. This was done by developing administrative guidelines for the project (by the Federation) which were to be finalized by two technical experts, one from each local RC organisation. The final administrative problem was solved by the Spanish RC agreeing to register the ambulance used for the project for the first year. In a final meeting, facilitated by the ICRC and the Federation, the two technical experts agreed on the final budget. All that was left to do was sign the administrative guidelines by the JWG. However, while preparing the JWG meeting which could finalize everything and mark the start of the process to find donors and implement the project, one of the two sides unexpectedly indicated some problems with the agreement, and in fact the project proposal which had been agreed and signed before. It seems that there are some underlying or bigger issues in the background which are now causing a further delay in finalizing the project. However, it was not possible during the JWG meeting to fully

determine what these issues are. Thus the implementation of the project seems to be delayed for the time being. This is regrettable as a number of donors have already expressed their support to the project.

Impact

It is still too early to expect any major impact of the support due to the first of all nature of the OD programme as such as well as lack of possibility to implement all foreseen activities. Anyhow, the decision made together by the RC and the Federation to have more focused programme based on the prioritised issues set by the RC organizations in Kosovo and more in line with the Global Agenda goals could be considered as an achievement.

Constraints

As mentioned above, there were different factors that hampered the possibility of implementing the activities as planned in order to achieve the expected results. Lack of financial support, unrealistically high expectations raised in the appeal planning process as well as lack of capacity within the two Red Cross organizations has been major constrain of the Federation Office to fulfil its planned work.

Future programme support will be focused more on establishing first of all a volunteer management structure and to provide different trainings to build their capacity to assist RC in assessing, planning and implementing their programmes. Also the training of different levels of organizational structure is planned for the near future to support overall organization.

A remaining obstacle for RCKM in developing any official cooperation with local or international institutions or agencies is the fact they are not officially registered as an organisation in Kosovo. Thus no official contact or ability to achieve any implementation agreement is possible which leaves RCKM entirely dependent on support from the Serbian RC and other RC/RC partners including Federation and ICRC.

Youth Development

Overview

There exists a strong desire in both organizations to be able to develop youth activities and involve more youth members. In order to fulfil their mandates as RC organizations and deal with the problems facing youth in Kosovo, *proper structures* with strong involvement of youth in governance and management bodies must be created and relevant programmes implemented. This will also attract and increase the involvement of the young population in Red Cross activities.

The Youth Development Programme has been going through some changes within both RC organizations. The coordinator from RCK HQ was on leave for a month then resigned suddenly, leading to delays in the programme, largely affecting the development of a draft programme determining future cooperation with Finnish Red Cross. The Federation responded to a RCK request to assist in drafting this draft, which is based on discussions with RCK Youth Commission and youth volunteers from all 26 branches. The new Youth Programme Coordinator has been recruited by RCK and immediately started implementing youth development plan according to the logframe.

RCKM, based on the need identified for extensive support in developing their overall programme activities (including youth), decided to create the new position of Youth Programme Coordinator at HQ level in order to support this development. The Federation has committed its support towards this very important and necessary decision and is financially supporting RCKM with this position as it is seen as a major step in developing the capacities of the organisation.

The RCK Central Board, after quite a long period of time, finally approved the youth policy. The youth policy was drafted by the Youth Commission and was coordinated by the youth coordinator and supported by the Federation. The policy document was also circulated among the youth volunteers in the branches for their feedback prior to the submission in the Central Board.

Overall Goal: Better functioning RC organisations with increased youth capacity to offer support to vulnerable groups.

Programme Objective: Red Cross organisations in Kosovo have raised the profile of the Youth Program and attracted and retained youth members through a more structured Youth volunteer system.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: Standard training manual and education kits have been designed and printed.

This has been planned to be implemented at later stage.

Expected Result 2: New youth volunteer management structure is established at regional and branch level.



Team-building exercise for new youth leaders

Due to the lack of youth coordinator in RCK for some months, only limited number of activities was implemented.

The first Youth Leadership Training was organized in the beginning of May in Banja e Pejes, Istog/Istok Municipality. The training was organized regionally and covered Decan/Decani, Gjakove/Djakovica, Peje/Pec, Klina/Klina and Istog/Istok branches. There were 24 participants which became new youth volunteer leaders following the training. The subjects covered in the training were RC dissemination, public relations, project planning, methods of leading, HIV/AIDS awareness, leader's role, etc.

Similar trainings will be organized with all other RCK branches as well with RCKM

branches. This will lead RCK and RCKM, with the support of the Federation and donor NS, to start developing an efficient youth management structure as a basis for strong and sustainable network supporting RC organizations to implement their programmes in achieving their vision.

Expected Result 3: Youth leaders have established volunteers groups, and qualified RC youth volunteers groups (including minorities) are trained in different fields.

This has been planned to be implemented at later stage.

Expected Result 4: Skilled youth volunteers groups support in better implementation of all RC programs and activities.

With the support of Swedish Red Cross, two youth projects have been implemented. The projects were planned and implemented by youth themselves:



Youth volunteers in raising awareness among drivers on road safety

Vushtrri/Vucitrn branch youth volunteer implemented a "Road Safety" project. The project was initiated due to the high level of traffic accidents involving school children in that area. They had a very close cooperation and collaboration with local institutions such as Vushtrri/Vucitrn Municipality, Kosovo Police Service, schools, etc. All youth engaged in the project were dressed with red cross shirts, red cross hats and had supportive materials as brochures, posters, questionnaires. The activities included youth, together with the support of police, were stopping vehicles on the main street where most of accidents happen (school is situated next to the main road) and asking the drivers to fill in a questionnaire with questions related to the behaviour of drivers and pedestrians. Afterwards the drivers received a brochure telling them the correct answers to the questions. The RC Youth

volunteers also held awareness sessions in some schools with awareness message on how children and youth have to behave when walking in dangerous streets. The project was very successful: on one hand it raised the awareness of children, youth and drivers about safe traffic, but has led also to big media attention (TV and newspapers), improved relations with municipal authorities and the setting up of a number of road safety signs related to schools and children. In addition, a number of school not included in the project requested similar road safety awareness activities for their students. These activities and the further printing of posters and leaflets may be financed by the municipal authorities.

Rahovec/Orahovac branch youth organized a project related to HIV/AIDS awareness in rural areas. It is very important to see how Rahovec/Orahovac branch included the creation of volunteer management structure and its capacity building to implement the project in this project. The training of trainers workshop on HIV/AIDS awareness was held and facilitated by a local expert. The RC youth trainers in turn trained other youth volunteers on HIV/AIDS awareness and how they should work on the field. The youth volunteers then organized peer to peer education in schools, mainly in rural areas. The branch secretary assisted the youth volunteers in arranging the activities with the school directors to allow them to enter the school with such an important message to youth. As the project was just recently concluded, the impact and result still has to be evaluated.

Expected Result 5: Through 7 youth officers and HQ Youth Program coordinators assigned by the Youth Commission, youth volunteer involvement in all the programmes and activities is better coordinated and has an adequate reporting system.

The Federation continues to support two RC Youth Programme Coordinators in RCK and RCKM HQ with monthly salaries due to very limited financial resources within the two RC organizations. Through the implementation of the Youth Leadership Trainings with all branches, RCK will have the chance to evaluate the capacity of its youth leaders and select the seven youth officers to lead the further development of the youth management structure on a regional level. As there is still a significant gap in funding to continue this process, it is hoped that an agreement can be reached soon with the Finnish RC in order to ensure uninterrupted implementation of activities.

Expected Result 6: Youth participated in international events and have exchanged youth volunteers with other NSs.

The Finnish Red Cross send an invitation to the RCK youth programme coordinator to participate in a Youth Delegate Training organized by the Finnish Red Cross in Helsinki, Finland. Even though this was done on a bilateral basis between RCK and the Finnish Red Cross, the Federation facilitated the contact and travel

preparations as well as advocated for the importance of participation of youth from Kosovo in such events organized abroad.

Expected Result 7: Improved capacity of youth volunteers for assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

This has been planned to be implemented at later stage.

Expected Result 8: Kosovo wide Youth and others have been informed of all RCK activities through a dedicated web page and youth magazine.

So far only some discussions between RCK, the Federation and the web page designer took place since work on achieving this expected result is planned for the end of the year.

Impact

It is early at this stage to try and measure the impact of this new, long-term youth development programme. One important that can be observed is a gradual but visible attitude change within the management and governance of RCK, in particular related to giving youth a stronger role within the organisation. In the past, the youth programme has seen to be very much imposed from the outside (rather than driven by youth itself) and the activities were not oriented towards long term sustainable programming. In mid 2005, a consultative process for the Federation Appeal planning (2006-2007) was organized by the Federation Office in Kosovo with RCK which resulted in a separate youth development programme (no longer simply a part of OD activities) with a stronger emphasis on sustainable development. Most importantly, youth itself has been given the central role in the development and implementation of the programme.

Constraints

As mentioned above, the major constraint has been the resignation and long period for recruiting a new youth programme coordinator with RCK, causing delays in the programme implementation – in particular the implementation of the Youth Leader Trainings. Unless the negotiations with a donor can be concluded in the coming months, the youth development programme is at risk of having to stop due to a lack of funds.

Humanitarian Values

Overview

Due to a total lack of funding, it has not been possible to start with Humanitarian Values Programme in Kosovo. A number of important components and underlying concepts of this programme are incorporated into other programme areas, such as in the youth training programme.

Health and Care

Overview

Limited activities were implemented during the reporting period in the health and care programme, due to a significant lack of funding and the resulting uncertainty which parts the programme can be implemented and which ones will have to be delayed or cancelled. As a result, the upcoming revised appeal will make changes to the existing plans, based on the priority areas of implementation and it is expected that all activities will be implemented following the new plans. To date the programme annual budget for 2006 only is covered 56 per cent.

The main focus of RCK in the health and care programme was efforts to ensure the long term sustainability of the health activities and further improvement and strengthening of the programme as well as the provision of higher quality services to the communities.

The health education project is financially supported by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and receives further support from the Federation, which provides technical assistance and contributes the part of the project funding not covered by the MoH. RCK has proven to be a key partner of the MoH and the National Institute for Public Health

(NIPH), in the provision of health promotion services and this partnership was strengthened through the signing of MoU in 2005. Meanwhile, RCK as the sole provider of health education activities in the communities is working closely with the NIPH and the MoH, to develop a long term plan on health education ensuring sustainability and support from the respective Ministry.

Recommendations given by the RCK ad-hoc health education working group, to provide more efficient and higher quality health education courses to the community, will be incorporated into an Annex to the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between RCK and Federation in 2005. Some main recommendations include: reviewing the topics included in the existing course curriculum, redefine the roles and responsibilities of health instructors, set a new course evaluation system, redefine the split of branch cost expenses, develop new training manual for instructors and new promotional materials for communities, and improving the monitoring system.

RCK's lead role in family health education given by the MoH is closely coordinated with the NIPH as the main coordinating body for all health related activities in Kosovo. A small working group exists comprised of RCK, Federation and NIPH to monitor the courses organized by the branches and to give further directions to health education courses in the future. The branches and health instructors have created an effective network with the public health centres through a formal referral system. This includes regular contacts and feedback on various cases and information on the activities carried out in the communities.

There are ongoing discussions between RCK and the MoH regarding voluntary blood donation activities in Kosovo. At the same time, RCK has been tasked by the MoH, to draft a MoU related to the voluntary blood donation activities which will define the roles and responsibilities between RCK, MoH and the Centres for Blood Transfusion.

Overall Goal: The general health of the population in Kosovo has improved.

Programme Objective: The awareness of population on health education, HIV/AIDS prevention and risk behaviour is increased.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: Red Cross branches are organizing health education courses in the community.

Due to the mentioned difficulties in the programme funding situation no health education activity was financially supported by the Federation during the reporting period. However, the RC health instructors started the process of identifying participants in the rural areas and are creating new groups for health education courses. The health education project covers mostly women at young age. During the identification process, the beneficiaries are asked to fill in a questionnaire (assisted by the instructors) in order to get information on how much they are informed on health related issues and what topics they would be interested in. Based on these questionnaires, the health instructors plan their courses and each questionnaire is shared with NIPH.

Activities planned for the next reporting period:

- One meeting will be organized in July with branch secretaries and a number of health instructors to discuss the changes/recommendations given by the health education working group.
- It is planned that during the second part of reporting period 170 health education courses are organized and approximately 3,000 beneficiaries participate in these courses.
- Joint visits (RCK, NIPH, and Federation) to the branches and visit communities who participated in the courses in order to get their input on the project as part of monitoring and evaluation.
- The Federation will assist RCK in meetings with NIPH and MoH related to the project implementation and development of plan framework for future support of the project.

Expected Result 2: The awareness on HIV/AIDS and risk behaviour, particularly among youth, is increased.

No activities were implemented during the reporting period. The Federation is working on re-establishing links and partnerships with other stakeholders involved with HIV/AIDS activities. From May onwards, the Federation started to regularly participate in the UN Theme Group Meetings on HIV/AIDS, organized by UNDP, UNAIDS and UNICEF. The main topics in the meeting were on the national AIDS programme, development of UN joint project for the Millennium Development Goal 6 and other topics.

Activities planned for the next reporting period:

- Regular participation in UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS
- Assist RCK in applying for Global Fund related to HIV/AIDS activities in Kosovo
- Support both RCK and RCKM in organizing events for the International AIDS Day

Expected Result 3: Basic First Aid courses for communities, including children and youth, is being taught in selected Red Cross branches.

This has been planned to be implemented at later stage.

Activities planned for the next reporting period:

- Assist RCK in the process of hiring new First Aid Coordinator
- Support both Red Cross organizations (RCK and RCKM) in organizing three First Aid for children and youth Training of Trainers workshops for FA volunteers

Expected Result 4: Public awareness on different health issues is raised through traditional health activities organized by Red Cross branches.

The Red Cross branches organized all planned traditional health activities during the first reporting period. The traditional activities organized were: hygiene month and voluntary blood donor day.

All RCK branches organized traditional hygiene campaigns through volunteers and in schools through children and youth. The hygiene activities focused more on cleaning green sites and more frequented areas in the cities. In some clean-up campaigns communities also participated thus giving their contribution to the event.



Youth volunteers are presenting

As in previous years, the Federation supported RCK in organizing the celebration of World RC/RC Day. Several hundred participants from of all RCK branches, staff and volunteers as well as partners from different local and international institutions, attended the celebrations held in Banja e Pejes, a national park in Western Kosovo. This year's motto was 'Volunteering'.

To mark the event of voluntary blood donation, RCK HQ in cooperation with the MoH, National Centre for Blood Transfusion (NCBT) and the Society for Voluntary Blood Donation (SVBD), organized two main events at central level: the first event was a round table discussion with different health related institutions and stakeholders with topic on

promotion of voluntary blood donation, and the second event was a public meeting focusing on recruiting new voluntary blood donors. Both events received media attention and were covered in national media. On local level, the branches of both Red Cross organizations organized similar activities marking the event of voluntary blood donation.

Impact

One of the major successes achieved in the project, is the partnership established between RCK and the MoH, and the creation of local networks between the branches and local public health centres, as well as municipal health departments, which leads in having a sustainable activity with Red Cross having a lead role in health promotion activities.

A full evaluation of the health education project is planned at the end of 2006. However, the ongoing monitoring and provision of feedback by the Red Cross and Institute for Public Health has significantly improved the capacities of branches to provide more efficient services to the communities. This was also reported by the NIPH who is regularly monitoring the courses.

Constraints

The main constraint in the project implementation is the lack of funding and the fact that that health education programme could not be implemented in the Red Cross of Kosovo and Metohija (RCKM) area as they do not have the trained instructors/volunteers and do not have any institutional relations with Kosovo authorities. This creates obstacles also for other activity areas in health and care programme to be implemented by the RCKM that are coordinated by the local and central authorities.

Social Welfare

Overview

Due to lack of programme funding, no activities were implemented during this reporting period. During the reporting period, the budget for 2006 only is covered nine per cent.

There are two components in the social welfare programme:

- different social activities including skill building and income generating projects for multiple targeted groups (based on the Participatory Action Research (PAR) carried out in 2005)
- and, home care based activities for elderly

Challenges and delays in finalizing and financing the social welfare project proposal based on the PAR was the main constraint in starting the implementation of the programme. The implementation depends on the finalization of the proposal by RCK and the continued interest from the donor to provide support to the programme.

Disaster Management

Overview

The law on disaster preparedness and response has been drafted by the Department for Emergency and was sent to the Kosovo parliament commission for review. RCK is also included in the law as a partner with a defined role. It is assumed that the law will be passed to parliament for voting at the end of 2006 or early 2007.

Based on this defined role, the Federation has assisted the RCK in developing their disaster management plan. Three meetings were held with the RCK disaster management working group and the ICRC in order to work and define the roles and responsibilities between the RCK and the other partners included in the Kosovo-wide disaster management plan.

The floods that affected fifteen municipalities in Kosovo made some of the activities delayed as most of the branches of both Red Cross organizations were involved in carrying assessment of the needs and distribution of emergency relief to the affected areas. Lessons learned were collected from this emergency operation that will be discussed with RC organizations in order to improve future response during emergency operations.

The Disaster Management programme budget for 2006 is funded only 24 per cent of the total appeal target.

Overall Goal: Vulnerability to the impact of disasters is reduced in Kosovo.

Programme Objective: The capacity of Red Cross of Kosovo to plan and manage effective disaster preparedness and response initiatives based on the national plan is increased.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: Disaster Management Plan is disseminated at all levels of the organisation.

The RCK working group has submitted the first draft of the disaster management plan to Federation along with the training priorities for this year. Once the draft plan is reviewed and commented by Federation, the plan will be returned to RCK DM working group to finalize it and share with branches for possible comments. Once the final document is produced it will be shared with other partners in the governmental disaster management team.

Activities planned for the next reporting period:

- Finalize the RCK DM Plan
- Participate in the RCK DM working group meetings

Expected Result 2: The organizational capacity to manage and co-ordinate disaster management, trainings and activities through trained staff and volunteers has improved.

Both RC organisations participated in the RDRT meeting organized in April in Croatia to enhance the regional networking on DM issues. In addition, two participants from RCK and one from RCKM participated in the RDRT training held in May in Macedonia.

Activities planned for the next reporting period:

- Organization of three training workshops (two RCK, one RCKM) related to DM and emergency needs/damage assessment for staff and volunteers with the support from the Regional Delegation Budapest
- Design and printing of DM promotion materials

Expected Result 3: Adequate and appropriate training equipment and materials are available in the central and branch level.

No activities have been conducted during the reporting period.

Expected Result 4: Effective networking between Red Cross and other agencies (national and regional) engaged with disaster management.

RCK DM Coordinator is participating regularly in the meetings organized by the governmental disaster management team. The definition of RCK role within the Kosovo-wide DM plan has strengthened the position of RCK within government structures and among other stakeholders. Participation and involvement of RCK in trainings and workshops organized by the Government DM team has contributed to building capacities in preparedness and response activities.

Impact

The effective response of the local Red Cross to the floods in February and March, supported through Federation DREF (and ICRC logistical support), has improved the profile and image of Red Cross as a reliable provider of disaster and emergency relief as it was the only organization providing assistance to the affected population. It is hoped that this will also assist to further strengthen RCK in consolidating its role on national level as a future auxiliary to the government.

Constraints

Similar to the situation in health and care, it is a problem for RCKM to not be registered as an organization within the UN NGO Department. Therefore it can not establish official partnerships on municipal level in order to have a role in the provision of disaster response and management services in the Serb dominated municipalities.

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

Following the alignment of the Federation strategic goals (Global Agenda) to the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Federation Office in Kosovo initiated a better coordination with the UN with regard to these goals. As a result, the Federation is participating from May 2006 onwards in the UN Theme Group Meetings on HIV/AIDS and the MDGs.

Below is a table reflecting the activities undertaken by the RC / RC partners in Kosovo:

RC Partners	Summary of activities
ICRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities related to the missing • Activities related to minorities/returns • Dissemination (IHL, EHL) • Cooperation (support to local RC organisations, support to the process of creating <i>one</i> RC organisation in Kosovo)
German RC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of four new branch buildings for RCK
Saudi RC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Support to Laparoscopy and Endoscope Services in University Clinical Centre of Kosovo • Running of Primary Health Care Centre/Polyclinic in Pristina • Scholarships for students
Spanish RC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in Need – for street children with RCK in Prizren, Suhareka, and Rahovec Branches. Maybe also in Pristina. • RAE Women Project – in RCK Prizren branch. May also include Albanian and Bosniac women in future. Trainings in: hair dressing, sewing, IT, hand craft. • Youth Club Project – in RCK Prizren branch. The RAE Women project is also conducted in the Youth Centre.
Swiss RC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Motherhood (RCK in Vitina and Kacanik Branches) – training of medical personnel (family doctors and nurses) – advocacy campaign • Reproductive/Family Planning Project – Awareness campaign on contraceptives with RCK volunteers • Mental Health Project

Management of the delegation

As part of the process of revising the 2006-2007 appeal for Kosovo, the goals and targets of the Federation Office in Kosovo will be more closely aligned to the Global Agenda.

An HR review process of the Federation Office in Kosovo was conducted and completed during the reporting period. The process included the revision of staff regulations, re-signing of code of conduct, extensive revision of job descriptions and the setting of staff performance targets.

The Federation is still not registered as an organization working in Kosovo. This is problematic as it affects VAT exemption, ability to make contracts, registration of expatriate staff in Kosovo and the ability to provide services to National Societies working internationally in Kosovo. Hence all efforts are made to register the Federation in Kosovo. During the reporting period the Federation status as an international organisation was acknowledged by UNMIK a draft Status Agreement was supplied and is currently negotiated. It is hoped that the process can be concluded in the coming months.

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAACS001 - SERBIA & MONTENEGRO / KOSOVO

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAAcS001
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	3'589'737	938'650	131'798	1'218'040	218'182	6'096'407
B. Opening Balance	792'418	183'066	2'674	167'209	86'424	1'231'792
Income						
Cash contributions						
British Red Cross	434'881					434'881
Danish Red Cross	40'000					40'000
German Red Cross	26'735	5'346	2'672	18'713		53'466
Norwegian Red Cross	25'375	25'375		50'750		101'500
Swedish Red Cross	21'031			21'031		42'063
Swiss Government	100'000					100'000
C1. Cash contributions	648'022	30'721	2'672	90'494		771'910
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
British Red Cross	-80'000					-80'000
Danish Red Cross	-40'000					-40'000
German Red Cross	-26'738	-5'348	-2'674	-18'716		-53'476
Icelandic Red Cross	29'363					29'363
Swedish Red Cross	21'249			21'249		42'497
Swiss Government	-100'000					-100'000
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	-196'126	-5'348	-2'674	2'533		-201'615
Inkind Personnel						
Danish Red Cross	31'000					31'000
German Red Cross					42'500	42'500
Norwegian Red Cross					42'500	42'500
C5. Inkind Personnel	31'000				85'000	116'000
Other Income						
Miscellaneous Income					2'036	2'036
Service Agreements					15'737	15'737
C6. Other Income					17'773	17'773
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	482'896	25'373	-2	93'027	102'773	704'068
D. Total Funding = B + C	1'275'314	208'439	2'672	260'237	189'197	1'935'859

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	792'418	183'066	2'674	167'209	86'424	1'231'792
C. Income	482'896	25'373	-2	93'027	102'773	704'068
E. Expenditure	-451'030	-65'250	-120	-133'759	-86'621	-736'780
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	824'284	143'188	2'552	126'478	102'577	1'199'079

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAACS001 - SERBIA & MONTENEGRO / KOSOVO

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/5
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAAcS001
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)		3'589'737	938'650	131'798	1'218'040	218'182	6'096'407	
Supplies								
Shelter	12'000							12'000
Construction	8'030							8'030
Clothing & textiles			13'711				13'711	-13'711
Food	237'600	16'723					16'723	220'877
Medical & First Aid	22'000				16		16	21'984
Teaching Materials	79'200							79'200
Utensils & Tools	81'000							81'000
Other Supplies & Services	32'440	3'597	189				3'787	28'653
Total Supplies	472'270	20'320	13'900		16		34'236	438'034
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	17'000							17'000
Computers & Telecom	31'290				33'861		33'861	-2'571
Others Machinery & Equipment			2'073				2'073	-2'073
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	48'290		2'073		33'861		35'934	12'356
Transport & Storage								
Storage		228	676				904	-904
Transport & Vehicle Costs	345'030	42'685	948		4'724		48'358	296'672
Total Transport & Storage	345'030	42'913	1'624		4'724		49'262	295'768
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	408'000	140					140	407'860
Delegate Benefits	204'000	62'723	2'420	112	6'686	84'993	156'933	47'067
National Staff	776'283	88'538	18'063		39'841	-267	146'175	630'108
National Society Staff	356'400	112'514	2'493		2'828	16	117'851	238'549
Consultants	58'940	-588					-588	59'528
Total Personnel Expenditures	1'803'623	263'327	22'976	112	49'355	84'741	420'510	1'383'113
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	2'093'525	23'696	8'357		9'358	398	41'809	2'051'716
Total Workshops & Training	2'093'525	23'696	8'357		9'358	398	41'809	2'051'716
General Expenditure								
Travel	145'144	9'980	3'927		6'909	-11	20'805	124'339
Information & Public Relation	149'520	4'916	411		5'821	-8	11'140	138'380
Office Costs	513'966	18'643	101		6'420	27'342	52'505	461'461
Communications	71'881	1'771	245		2'080	10'976	15'072	56'809
Professional Fees	51'600					1'996	1'996	49'604
Financial Charges	5'291	6'405	2'160		-180	-3'510	4'875	416
Other General Expenses		29'873	5'236		6'699	-40'574	1'234	-1'234
Total General Expenditure	937'402	71'588	12'080		27'750	-3'790	107'629	829'774
Program Support								
Program Support	396'266	29'186	4'241	8	8'694	5'271	47'401	348'866
Total Program Support	396'266	29'186	4'241	8	8'694	5'271	47'401	348'866
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	6'096'407	451'030	65'250	120	133'759	86'621	736'780	5'359'626
VARIANCE (C - D)		3'138'707	873'400	131'678	1'084'281	131'561	5'359'626	