

Mid-Year report



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Appeal No. MAABA002

31 August 2010

This report covers the period
1 January 2010 to 30 June 2010



“Week of solidarity” in March - Red Cross volunteers organised humanitarian campaign and distributed collected items to the most vulnerable people. Photo: Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In brief

Programme Purpose: In line with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Strategy 2020 the aim of the Federation supported programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina is to *save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; to enable healthy and safe living; and to promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.*

In terms of programmes the focus is on *disaster management* including planning, risk reduction, preparedness and response; *health and care* focusing on HIV and AIDS and Tuberculosis, and home care services; *organizational development* addressing the needs for restructuring the National Society; and *principles and values*. In recent years the National Society has continued to implement longer-term activities while at the same time having moved from being exclusively a provider of assistance to also being an advocate for the vulnerable.

Programme(s) summary: In disaster management a disaster response coordinator was appointed at national level. In addition 20 field teams for disaster response were established at entity level, while 22 teams were established at municipal level. In March an international disaster response simulation took place bringing together regional disaster response team (RDRT) members from 16 National Societies. The Ministry of Security and the US Army Corpse of Engineers (USACE) organized training in rescue and protection. A conference on state policy towards disaster risks was organized in which the Red Cross presented its disaster management activities. A final draft of a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Security was agreed. The National Society responded to flooding affecting thousands of people in June.

The National Society continued implementing the Tuberculosis (TB) programme supported by UNDP. From October 2009 to June 2010 a total of 1,363 persons were checked. Totally 3,870 sputum checks were made and 207 persons were referred to medical services for closer examination out of which 7 new cases were identified. The agreement with UNDP has been signed until the end of September 2012 which will allow the National Society to complete the TB database. Because of the unexpected human pandemic (H2P) the National Society organized two trainings of

trainers followed by 11 trainings on disease prevention targeting volunteers and community members. As a result 48 volunteers were qualified as trainers. Some 300,000 pamphlets were distributed. The home care programme is the main priority for National Society in health and care. In 2010 the expected number of people to be reached is around 5,000. Four branches managed to establish longer-term partnership with municipal authorities. A total of 224 hygiene parcels for volunteers were distributed as well as 145 volunteer jackets.

In organizational development the National Society took several measures to ensure the longer-term development of the society including *drafting new statutes; improving the work of the presidency; and preparing an update of the Red Cross law*. A project proposal for organizational development was approved by the presidency in June. This process aims to develop *programmes covering the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina; develop an international strategy; ensure a well functioning headquarters; and achieve satisfactory financial sustainability*. A detailed plan of action has been developed.

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget is CHF 336,623 (USD 327,018 or EUR 258,446), of which CHF 254,428 (79 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). The budget was increased from initially CHF 212,567 due to increased funding. Expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 126,942. Expenditure against budget was 38 per cent and expenditure against funding was 50 per cent. [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

See also [Bosnia and Herzegovina country plan for 2010-2011](#)

No. of people we have reached: Some 10,000 people were reached through the disaster management programme while another 5,000 were reached through the home care programme.

Our partners: The DFID British Government supported the project for human pandemic preparedness; the Italian Red Cross provided bilateral and multilateral support to home care, and UNDP supported the TB programme on bilateral basis. The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees provided support and local authorities and services were active as partners at local level.

Context

The political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was fairly stable in the first six months of 2010. Parliamentary elections are due in October. Although difficult to predict the elections may prove important for the future administrative set-up of the country.

Economically the situation did not change substantially compared to 2009. The expected recovery after the economic crisis is still awaited mainly due to reduced investments from abroad and increased lay-offs of workers from Bosnia and Herzegovina in other countries. Around one-third of the population in Bosnia and Herzegovina is unemployed especially youth of which almost two-third is unemployed. From January 2009 to January 2010 the number of unemployed persons increased by more than 27,800. The state employment agency reports that the number of registered people who found employment decreased by more than 25 per cent in the same period. The trend in international funding for development mirrors the general economic climate in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the level of funding has decreased in recent years making it increasingly difficult to attract much needed resources.

The general economic situation and in particular the decrease in international funding means that meeting the needs of vulnerable people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, even at the present level, is becoming increasingly difficult. Owing to various reasons many groups face difficulties; pensions are under the official threshold of relative poverty making older people a particularly vulnerable group; people dependent on social welfare allowances and people with disabilities have a limited safety net; a high number of displaced people and minority groups face discrimination and exclusion; human trafficking has emerged as a potential risk especially to women; and increasing world food and energy prices have led to higher living costs. The most vulnerable groups include

older people aged 60 or more, people with disabilities, self-supporting mothers, and socially endangered people with very young children.

In addition to political and socio-economic issues, natural phenomena such as flooding, heavy snow falls and landslides hit Bosnia and Herzegovina almost every year causing a variety of humanitarian challenges. Flooding seems to become more frequent and in the first six months of 2010 two severe floods occurred. Global warming and climate change may result in an increase of these phenomena in the future. Furthermore there is increasing public awareness of risks such as industrial accidents, accidents and population movements. The level of poverty and the existing vulnerabilities in the country increase the destructive effects of natural and man-made disasters.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme component 1: Organizational preparedness

Component outcome 1: Establishment, training and equipment of national disaster response teams from both Red Cross entities
--

Component outcome 2: Cantonal and regional disaster response teams have received refresher training.

Programme component 2: Community Preparedness / Risk reduction

Component outcome 1: Target communities' vulnerability to disasters has been reduced through community-based projects and municipal disaster management bodies have been established.
--

Programme component 3: Disaster Management Planning
--

Component outcome 1: The National Society has conducted new vulnerability and capacity assessment and developed a national plan for preparedness and response and standard operating procedures for response on disasters.

Achievements: In the recent past experience has shown that data collection and rapid flow of information between the field and the headquarters is critical for timely and appropriate responses to disaster situations. In order to ensure this in March a disaster response coordinator at national level was selected. The coordinator will facilitate and speed up data collection and response measures in case of national disasters. Organizational preparedness capacity was enhanced by the establishment of 20 entity disaster response field teams.¹ In addition 22 teams composed of 12 members each were established at municipal level.²

In March an international disaster response simulation supported by IFRC was carried out. The exercise which took place in the municipalities of Doboje, Tuzla, Modrica and Lukavac gathered 60 participants and facilitated joint training between regional disaster response team (RDRT) members from 16 National Societies in Europe. The exercise represented an excellent opportunity for practical training and experience sharing.

The Ministry of Security and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) organized training in rescue and protection aiming to facilitate exchange of experiences. The training included representatives of government institutions, civil protection services and the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The National Society received the certificate "Training for civilian-corpus preparation for emergency situations".

The Red Cross took part and presented its disaster management activities in a conference on state policy on decreasing the risk of disasters. A final draft version of a memorandum of understanding between the National Society and the Ministry of Security was agreed. The memorandum defines

¹ One team in each region/canton in the two entities. Each team (also called "multipurpose field units") is composed of 14 members.

² Of the 22 teams 12 were established in Republika Srpska and 10 in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

roles and responsibilities, cooperation and coordination in the field of protection and rescue of people and goods from disasters.

Supported by the US embassy in Sarajevo, the National Society responded immediately to flooding hitting several municipalities in the northern part of the country in June. Thousands of people were affected. Previously built disaster management capacity helped the National Society to respond while the event demonstrates that additional capacity building is required. Because of the scale of the flooding further support was sought at the end of June.

The National Society is planning to establish a national unit which will include first aid, tracing service, psychosocial support, logistic, water cleaning and water rescue and camp management for 200 to 300 persons with complete infrastructure.

Constraints or Challenges: Different administrative structures in the two entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina hamper rapid flow of information between the field and the headquarters. Subsequently this affects the coordination and implementation of response operations.

Health and Care

Programme component 1: Prevention and control of HIV and AIDS and TB

Component outcome 1: The number of exposed people seeking HIV counselling or treatment has increased.

Component outcome 2: The National Society has contributed to TB control and prevention through promotion and support of Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS) and National Society programme staff has been further trained.

Achievements: The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the process of consolidating its programming within health. The relevance of health programmes to changes in the environment can improve and programmes become more efficient if better developed strategically and more clearly presented to the public and the appropriate authorities.

The National Society continued implementing the Tuberculosis (TB) programme supported by UNDP. Programme activities included collecting samples for testing, registering new cases of TB and controlling already detected cases. From October 2009 to June 2010 a total of 1,363 persons were checked by the National Society. Totally 3,870 sputum checks were made and 207 persons were referred to medical services for closer examination out of which 7 new cases were identified.

The programme agreement with UNDP has been signed until the end of September 2012 which will allow the National Society to complete the TB database. Vast amounts of TB related data have already been collected for the database which is expected to be up-to-date by the end of 2010. The data and subsequent information generated through the database will contribute to better coordination of TB activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Because of the unexpected human pandemic (H2P), the National Society received funding through IFRC to work towards pandemic preparedness. Owing to the somewhat decreased risk of a pandemic the H2P project was revised. Implementation started in March and lasted until the end of May. Two training of trainers, one in each entity, took place followed by 11 trainings on disease prevention targeting Red Cross volunteers and community members. As a result of the training 48 volunteers were qualified as trainers. Moreover 300,000 pamphlets were distributed.

Programme component 2: Home care

Component outcome 1: The National Society has a leading role in advocacy in the area of health care and social protection of elderly people, actively supporting the Government's planning.

Component outcome 2: The National society provides quality home care services while ensuring long term sustainability in cooperation with authorities.

The home care programme is the main priority for National Society with health and care. The programme is implemented in almost all of the 160 Red Cross local branches. From 2010 the

number people expected to be reached on an annual basis is around 5,000. The programme, through the work of volunteers provides house visits and personal hygiene services, food parcels, and assistance in dealing with public bodies. Since the programme review in 2006 a new implementation methodology has been introduced which is being applied by an increasing number of local branches. Today 40 branches work according to the methodology which was introduced to improve the quality of the home care services, enhance transparency in planning and reporting, and forge new or improved partnerships with local authorities.

So far in 2010, out of the 40 branches 10 received support from the Italian Red Cross through IFRC. Four out of the ten branches managed to establish longer-term partnership with municipal authorities while the others have proved themselves as reliable partners. Furthermore, by increasing the effectiveness of the programme in line with the new methodology this contributed to increasing the visibility of local branches in local communities and hence their capability to raise funds and support, and consequently enhancing the sustainability of the programme. In order to facilitate volunteering and improve the visibility of the programme a total of 224 hygiene parcels for volunteers were distributed as well as 145 volunteer jackets.

Constraints or Challenges: Limited resources for implementing health related activities meant that more ambitious activities were not implemented. Hence significant changes in people's lives are subject to the implementation of these activities only in the future. Although good cooperation was established with municipal authorities limited resources at municipal level means that longer-term implementation and sustained impact is still not guaranteed.

Organizational Development

Programme component 1: Leadership development
--

Component outcome 1: The National Society's governance members and management staff have improved their skills in chairing the Society.
--

Programme component 2: Development of systems, procedures and staff sustainability

Component outcome 1: The National Society's human resource structure and policy has been improved and is appropriate.
--

Programme component 3: Systems and performance for programmes and services

Component outcome 1: The National Society has strengthened and is more effective in programme reporting.

Achievements: Since 2009 the National Society has been addressing challenges affecting its structure and performance. In the first six months of 2010 the secretary general prioritized this process and prepared a plan of action to ensure the longer-term development of the National Society. Key measures taken include:

- *Draft statutes* were prepared by the statutory commission supported by IFRC and ICRC. The statutes were approved by the presidency of the National Society in June and have been presented to the entire structure of the society to facilitate consultation and ensure that proposals for amending the draft statutes are taken into account. Following this process the statutes will be presented to general assembly at the end of 2010 for definitive approval.
- *A rulebook to improve the work of the presidency* was approved. The rulebook is considered as critical to enhance the quality and effectiveness of presidency sessions. A substantial improvement was observed during recent sessions.
- A proposal for *updating the Red Cross law* is being prepared. The National Society has examined similar laws in neighbouring countries and a draft law is currently being compiled. The law update aims to secure new sources of funding for the National Society and prevent the misuse of the emblem presently occurring in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In order to continue the development process and build upon the urgent measures taken a project proposal was approved by the presidency in June. This process is supported by IFRC and aims to:

- Develop *programmes* covering the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which are known and followed by the whole structure of the society;
- Develop an *international strategy* in line with the programmatic priorities of the National Society;
- Ensure a well *functioning headquarters* and avoid malfunctioning and duplication in the national structure.
- Achieve a satisfactory level of *financial sustainability* to ensure the functioning of the National Society and implementation of programmes.

A detailed plan of action has been developed. The plan is based on a complete analysis of gaps in National Society in terms of organizational development. The plan of action, being the result of joint IFRC and ICRC support to the society will constitute the basis for IFRC's future support to the National Society.

Europe Zone resource mobilisation and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting staff as well as the Federation country office supported the National Society in preparing a project proposal for an EU call on mine awareness. The Norwegian Red Cross is partner to the National Society in the proposal. A decision is expected in the second half of 2010.

Constraints or Challenges: Different administrative structures in the two entities are mirrored by the situation in the Red Cross. This makes coordination for organizations operating at the national level difficult. The different structures call for reorganization in order to increase overall effectiveness and efficiency in the service provision by the state and organizations.

Resources in the country are scarce while contributions from international donors have decreased significantly in the last years. The National Society is struggling to find resources needed for its very existence and performance.

Principle and Values

Programme component 1: Information network and vocational training for asylum seekers from Bosnia and Herzegovina
--

Component outcome 1: Target beneficiaries have received vocational training and have increased their ability to become self-sustenance.
--

Achievements: Limited resources meant that no activities were carried out towards vocational training for asylum seekers.

Constraints or Challenges: Limited resources resulted in all activities being cancelled.

Working in partnership

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina worked in partnership with IFRC and received bilateral funding from the Italian Red Cross for home care activities. Besides Red Cross donors the United Nations Development program (UNDP) contributed with funding. Moreover the home care programme is implemented through several partnerships at local level including local authorities, centres for social welfare and private donors. At the national level the Ministry for Human rights and Refugees is partner to the National Society.

Through the plan of action for organizational development the National Society intends to develop a partnership strategy with governmental and external donors that will identify possible cooperation and coordinate National Society activities in creating partnerships. Moreover, strong coordination took place with ICRC with regards to organizational development. A common project document will be compiled to coordinate the efforts of all involved partners. A meeting took place in early April with Spanish Red Cross to discuss possible support to the initiative.

A meeting with the Catalonia Red Cross took place through which its interest to support the organizational development activities of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Red Cross was confirmed.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The activities of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina contributes to the Federation Strategy 2020 aiming to *save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; to enable healthy and safe living; and to promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace*. Its efforts within disaster management, health and care, organizational development and capacity building, and principles and values contribute to this end.

Moreover programme components are aligned with local and regional initiatives such as *The Decade of Roma Inclusion* and the *Poverty Reduction Strategies*.

All programmes implemented at the national level have integrated monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Still the National Society strives to improve its monitoring and evaluation capacities and apply lessons learned through the entire Red Cross structure. All programmes take gender equality into consideration.

Looking ahead

Limited financial resources will lead to a certain number of activities being cancelled. The National Society will develop a plan of action based on the existing funding while addressing its key priorities in an effort to use the funding most efficiently. A memorandum of understanding has been signed with the Italian Red Cross for implementing first-aid education and participatory community development (PCD) for Roma people for one year.

How we work	
All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.	
The IFRC's vision is to: Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.	The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.2. Enable healthy and safe living.3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
Contact information	
For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Dušan Kulušić, Secretary General; email: secretary_general@rcsbh.org; phone: +387 33 664 371, fax: +387 33 200 148• In the Federation office in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Michele Rezza Sanchez, Federation Programme Coordinator, email: michele.rezzasanchez@ifrc.org; phone: +387 33 664 369; fax: +387 33 664 369• In the Europe Zone Office: Elias Ghanem, Head of Support Services, Budapest; email: elias.ghanem@ifrc.org; phone: +361 888 4518, fax: +361 336 1516	