

# 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

## CENTRAL EUROPE

4 July 2002

*This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.*

**Appeal No. 01.42/2002**

**Appeal Target: CHF 7,727,142**

**Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January - March, 2002**

### “At a Glance”

**Appeal coverage: 42.7%**

**Related Appeals: N/A**

**Outstanding needs: Disaster Preparedness, Health, Humanitarian values, OD, and regional structures such as Human Resources, Planning and Reporting Unit.**

**Update: The Regional Delegation continues to provide support and guidance to National Societies in the region. At the same time, the delegation itself is changing; some activities are being scaled down or handed over, while others are becoming larger and more active. A remaining challenge is the funding situation, which has seen crucial programmes like Humanitarian Values receive little to no support.**

### **Operational Developments:**

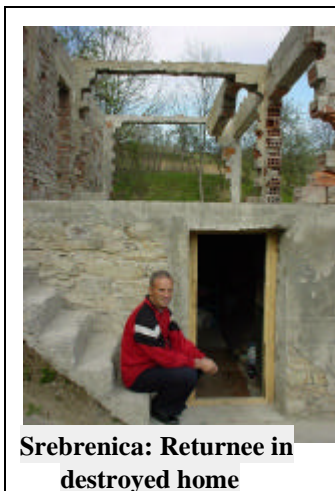
The Budapest Regional Delegation continues to play an important support and management role in the region. As the “situation on the ground” changes and develops, so too do the roles and activities of the delegation. Many of the new countries in the Balkans have begun to shake off the remainders of the wartime period, and are once again beginning to put emphasis on neglected areas such as health, disaster preparedness and the like. If the region is to continue moving in this positive direction, it is important that the Red Cross remain a visible and active player, modifying and adapting its programmes in line with the steps taken by national governments. It is particularly important that programmes receive the necessary support during these transitional times. The position of the Red Cross as a leading player is by no means a secure one as yet. It is in the best interests of the movement to ensure that support, albeit in a different manner, remains strong and prevalent for programmes and activities in the region.



Within the delegation itself there has been considerable activity. The former Head of Delegation left September 1, 2001. Ever since then, the Disaster Preparedness Delegate has stepped in as Acting Head. Finally the new Head of Delegation has been appointed and the first introductions have taken place in Budapest mid-March. The new Head will take up his position April 2, 2002. At the same time, the Organizational Development programme has been active in only three areas, that of Youth d

Participatory Community Development and Vulnerability Capacity Assessment. While new programme managers are being sought for the vacant OD positions, the process of recruitment is proving to be more difficult than originally expected. Unfortunately, at the moment it is difficult to predict when the OD programme will once again be running at full speed.

The Activities of the Regional Delegation during the first quarter of 2002 have generally followed the plans outlined in the Annual Plan. The Disaster Response, Health and Care and Humanitarian Value/Communication Programmes have been very active, and have even been more successful than was expected. Other programmes have not fared as well: the Organizational Development and Disaster Preparedness Programmes and activities were slow-down due to various reasons. In the area of Organizational Development, the previous delegates have ended their missions in 2001, the OD delegate was re-allocated in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. As a consequence, the Organizational Development programme itself, Finance Development and Resource Development programmes have not been operational during the first quarter since there have not been any Programme Managers in these three areas. When it comes to Youth, Participatory Community Development and the Nordic-Baltic Workplan, the activities have followed the Annual Plan and done very well. It is hoped that an Organizational Development Co-ordination delegate will be identified and in place by the third quarter.



**Srebrenica: Returnee in destroyed home**

The Disaster Preparedness Programme has not been fully functional due to his Acting Head of Regional Delegation role since September 2001. However, activities planned for the first quarter will take place during second quarter when the Programme Manager is back in the Disaster Preparedness Programme full time again.

An current on-going discussion within the Federation is the future for the Regions as such as well as for Regional programmes. The outcome of these discussions will be discussed during the next quarter within the frame of the Secretariat Programme Coordination Strategy and the Europe Department implementation plan. This will very much impact on the set up of the Regional Delegation and its mandate within the Region

Funding remains a major problem for the regional delegation. Very few pledges were received during this first quarter. Severe funding problems are already affecting some of the core programmes and the support units (HR, Planning and Reporting units which have started to implement effectively the decentralization process and therefore taking over some tasks usually carried out at the Secretariat level ) . An example of this is the Humanitarian Values Programme which is facing problems in attracting funding, although it is considered as one of the Federation core area.

Nevertheless, not all of the programmes have the same problem. Positive commitments were received at the last Partnership meeting end of last year for programmes such as the sub-regional Population Movement Programme, the Disaster Preparedness Programme, the PCD Programme, the Health and Care Programme. We are expecting to see during the next quarter the fulfillment of these commitments into hard pledges to secure the continuation and the delivery of good programmes.

## ***Disaster Response***

The return process in Croatia picked-up during the first quarter of 2002. Interestingly, more and more returnees from FR Yugoslavia are choosing organized return (via UNHCR and CRC), as opposed to the spontaneous method prevalent in the past (see Annex 1).

Minority returns, both of displaced persons and refugees, are continuing to and within Bosnia-Herzegovina. Regrettably, many of the returnees are “falling through the cracks” of the system and are still in need of initial support. The recruitment of the RC BiH PM Coordinator, (replacing the previous acting focal point), should be noted as a positive development.

Despite rather pessimistic predictions on return from FR Yugoslavia, the actual numbers are comparably higher than was revealed in the refugee census last year. The situation requires continued monitoring and coordination with all stakeholders.

In the field of asylum, the initial visit of a Swedish RC asylum expert took place, which laid down the base for future activities this year.

**Objective 1:** *To ensure and co-ordinate common regional mechanisms to better address population movement issues in the region*

*1.1. To provide technical and finance support to PM focal point(s) and national society PM co-ordinator(s).*

The financial and technical support to the respective National Society Population Movement Coordinator is continuing. The Croatian RC PM Coordinator has been in her current position since September 2001. The Yugoslav RC PM coordinator has been selected and took up the position in October. The newest member of the population movement team is the RC Bosnia and Herzegovina PM Coordinator who started in mid-January 2002.

*1.2. To assist NS's with legal issues*

In Croatia the RC Law was adopted by the Croatian Sabor (Parliament), creating the legal base for the Croatian RC to deal with various aspects of humanitarian work, also displacement related. Comments were prepared and shared with the Croatian RC regarding its new status under review, as well as discussions regarding the new law on asylum.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the RC Law contains provisions regarding the NS's role pertinent to displacement. The draft of the law will be further amended by the BiH Parliament.

In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, despite the transition process, initial discussions were held with the YRC leadership and PM Coordinator.

*1.3. To reinforce the existing national societies networking*

A visit of the newly selected PM co-ordinator of BiH to the Croatian Red Cross was facilitated with the aim of presenting the ongoing activities of the Croatian RC and identifying potential points of convergence. The visitors were taken into the field to see VOLREP activity in place, and to meet the Croatian RC field staff. Meetings with UNHCR and IOM completed the picture regarding the repatriation situation in Croatia.

The *Cross-border info project* proposal has been finalised. The proposed project aims to establish a cross-border info network between Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). This envisages an exchange of audio-visual messages/information via a direct contact of population of concern, through the Red Cross branches in FR Yugoslavia and Croatia. Some five selected RC branches in Croatia in the areas of potential return and five Yugoslav RC branches in the municipalities with the highest number of refugees in FRY will be equipped with two computers and web cameras at each location. It is expected that the project will start gradually, with two initial locations in each country.

The Croatian RC PM Co-ordinator attended a population movement workshop in Belgrade. The Vice-president of the Croatian RC appeared on Serbian TV as the guest speaker in a special half-hour show dedicated to the return of refugees to Croatia.

In all three countries, regular meetings are being held with the relevant stakeholders in the field of population movement, notably Government Representatives, UNHCR, IOM, and the NGO community.

*1.4. To assist NS's in projects development and implementation*

See Objective 2

*1.5. To mobilise and coordinate international support for the programme*

A technical expert from the Swedish Red Cross conducted an assessment mission in the region (Croatia and FR Yugoslavia) in order to explore the possibilities for future Red Cross involvement in the field of asylum. The technical expert had meetings with the Croatian RC, IOM Zagreb, Yugoslav RC, UNHCR Zagreb/Belgrade, Federation Delegation in Belgrade and Serbian Commissioner for Refugees. Since the Swedish RC has long-range experience in the area of asylum, significant assistance in this area will be given to the National Societies of Croatia, BiH and FRY. The terms of

reference for the Mission were agreed and approved by the Federation/Swedish RC. He will be based in Zagreb with the PM Delegate for a period of 6 months as of April 15th.

On February 25, a Red Cross home for the elderly was officially opened. Representatives of the International Federation, Norwegian RC and the Government of Croatia, the President of Croatian RC and other guests attended the opening ceremony.

**Objective 2:** *To strengthen the three national societies in the sub-regional through programme development*

### **Croatia**

#### *2.1. Support for the return/reintegration in the Croatian Red Cross community support service programme*

The Community Support Service programme funded by the UNHCR is the major Croatian RC relief operation. Its' objective is to address the needs of the most vulnerable within local communities in the areas of return. Services are being provided mainly through the network of 18 mobile teams, based at the local branches of the Red Cross, and includes distribution of relief items, in-house help, technical assistance, small repairs, assistance with administrative tasks, and assessment of the needs of new returnees.

Four teams in Eastern Slavonia and two in the areas of North and West carry out a water-sanitation programme. This involves cleaning wells for those who return home after several years of displacement. UNHCR is continuing to fund a volunteer network in three RC branches (Lapac, Korenica & Otocac) in the area of FS South. The total number of returnees who were provided transport home within the Voluntary Repatriation (VOLREP) programme (taken over partly by the Croatian RC mobile teams) during three months is 166 persons.

Within the PM programme, the Croatian Red Cross hygiene parcels (received in October) were dispatched and distributed to the local Red Cross branches. The secondary distribution was finalised in March.

As a part of the public awareness campaign, a new Croatian RC brochure on displacement was designed (both in English and Croatian), a documentary on Croatian RC work with returnees was finalised, and a T-shirt campaign is underway under the slogan "Priority to Humanity".

The fourth grass roots PM workshop was held in Lovran, 18-19 February 2002. Secretaries of 20 local Red Cross branches participated, together with the co-ordinator for Community Support Service and Vice-president of Croatian RC. The seminar was jointly facilitated by the PM delegate, the CRC PM co-ordinator and the IFRC PM assistant, but significant input was given from the side of UNHCR Protection and Durable Solutions Units, ODPD and IOM.

#### *2.2. Assist the CRC to develop policy and position concerning asylum seekers in Croatia*

Negotiations are underway between the CRC and UNHCR regarding the legal base for the CRC in the law on asylum which is under preparation; this issue is addressed in the dialogue between the CRC and the Government which is ongoing.

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

#### *2.3. Support the return/re/integration to Bosnia-Herzegovina with special focus on minority returns*

Programme of humanitarian assistance to fresh caseload of minority returnees planned to include the local vulnerable people as well as the returnees with previous assessment of community needs. The 7 priority areas with minority returns have been selected and 42.000 hygiene parcels distributed to the warehouses in respective areas. Implementation period was from October to December 2001. Distribution of hygiene parcels was completed during February 2002, while some smaller quantity of parcels is still to be distributed. It mainly occurred in Canton Sarajevo where the minority returns often occurring only on paper while physically the returnees have not returned or shuttling.

Extension of volunteer network by one-day seminars at branch level has been carried out. Two initial meetings with selected volunteers were held in February in order to explain the objective and

implementation of the Population Movement Programme and Information Network of Volunteers. RC Volunteers are supposed to create a Database with information on minority returnees and their needs in their area. Their activities should include direct support to the beneficiaries including provision of relevant information, counselling, advocacy and referral to the Government institutions and NGOs, facilitation of obtaining the documents or health care. They should also encourage local community to initiate actions of common interest. The first one-day seminar was held in Prijedor on 26<sup>th</sup> of February and it was participated with secretaries of local Red Cross organisations and 10 volunteers, mainly RC Youth members which have already been active in RC and willing to further contribute. Second one-day seminar for volunteers was held in Sanski Most on 27<sup>th</sup> of February. The local Red Cross Secretaries and 15 volunteers took part.

The PM leaflet and poster are under preparation.

#### *2. 4. Assist the RC BiH to develop its policy and position concerning asylum seekers in Bosnia-Herzegovina*

Initial discussions with the Deputy Chief of Mission UNHCR and IOM with the HoD Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina took place to discuss modalities of future co-operation prior to the arrival of the Asylum adviser of the Swedish RC.

### **FR of Yugoslavia**

#### *2.5. Provision of accurate and adequate information to the refugee caseload in FR Yugoslavia*

The first grass-roots PM workshop was held in Belgrade on the 26th - 27th of February 2002. Secretaries of 16 local Red Cross branches of Belgrade Red Cross participated, together with local agents/trustees of Serbian Commissioner for Refugees, IOM Belgrade, UNHCR Zagreb and UNHCR Belgrade representatives. The seminar was jointly facilitated by the PM delegate and YRC PM co-ordinator. One of the new directions developed is based on the cross-border information project initiated by the YRC and accepted by the CRC which is hoped to have more individually tailored information activities. Similarly in the areas of high concentration of refugees from Croatia and BiH information network of YRC volunteers will be established. Creation of the PM leaflet was finalised at the end of March and will be presented at the Berlin Conference. The YRC PM Coordinator attended the working group for Operation Guidance on Berlin Conference preparatory meeting in February 2002. Regular meetings are taking place with UNHCR Belgrade, Protection and Repatriation Unit, IOM, Serbian Commissioner for Refugees, Danish Refugee Council are being attended, as well as the UNHCR Monthly Coordination meetings.

#### *2.5. Assist YRC to develop its policy and position concerning asylum seekers in FRY*

The Swedish RC the assessment mission had initial meetings with the Yugoslav RC leadership, IOM Belgrade, UNHCR Belgrade, Federation Delegation Belgrade and Serbian Commissioner for Refugees.

### **Conclusions**

The return process is taking place in the situation of increasingly scarce funding, whereby the sustainability of the Red Cross networks are increasingly taken into account by the relevant stakeholders, and its advocacy potentials are being explored.

Apart from the continued return process of the caseload created by wars of succession, increasingly transit migration and asylum systems are needed in the three countries covered by the Zagreb Office, a transition from "prima facie" status influxes to more individual status determination procedures and accordingly care and integration of people from third countries. This will require a different response from the Red Cross in collaboration with the respective Governments, UNHCR, and IOM.

### ***Disaster Preparedness***

During this first quarter, the Disaster Preparedness programme was hampered by the fact that the Disaster Preparedness Delegate was very heavily involved in its role of Acting Head of the Regional Delegation. Consequently, the level of activity has not been according to the plan. Nevertheless, activities have taken place.

In the appeal 2002-03 the Regional Delegation had three specific objectives identified in order to achieve the Disaster Preparedness goal, namely:

**Objective 1:** *To strengthen the disaster response capacity of the national societies in the region through the development of disaster preparedness plans.*

This objective is to be fulfilled through the various Disaster Preparedness workshops at the regional and country level organized by the Regional Delegation. One workshop was organized during the reporting period.

**Disaster Preparedness workshop in Mavrovo, Macedonia:** January 28-30 with participation from the National Societies in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Macedonia and Turkey. The National Societies from the Central European region also brought representatives from their respective Civil Protection Agencies to the meeting. The American Red Cross delegation in Bulgaria participated with their Disaster Preparedness delegate in Sofia. The main topic of the meeting was the co-operation between National Disaster Response Authorities and their respective National Red Cross Societies. The discussions were very lively and there was a common understanding that this co-operation has to be deepened.

**Objective 2:** *To develop a regional disaster response strategy, including contingency planning. The regional strategy for DP/DR will be developed within the framework of the Regional Assistance Strategy and based on the needs of the national societies in co-operation with the Disaster Management and Co-ordination Division in Geneva.*

The work to develop a regional disaster response strategy will start mid-April, according to the workplan. However, the organization of the Disaster Management workshop of late February - early March should be seen as an activity to start this work. Discussions with Disaster Management Coordination Department in the Secretariat are on-going. This work should be finalized by early in the fourth quarter.

**Disaster Management workshop in Budapest:** February 27- March 7, with thirty two participants from twelve of the countries in the region, as well as from India and the Almaty Regional Delegation. The workshop was organized by the Regional Delegation in co-operation with the Disaster Management and Co-ordination Division in the Geneva Secretariat. The facilitators came from the Disaster Management and Co-ordination Division and from the region. The participants were staff or volunteers involved in or in charge of Disaster Preparedness or Response in the respective National Societies. The workshop aimed to give the participants both theoretical and practical knowledge on how to manage a disaster situation. One part of the workshop involved discussions regarding the creation of a Regional Disaster Response Team and hopefully these discussions will lead to the creation of such teams.

**Objective 3:** *To test national society's disaster preparedness plans.*

The first test of a National Society's disaster preparedness plan will be in the fourth quarter.

The Disaster Preparedness Programme has to a certain extent suffered from the fact that the Programme Manager has been the Acting Head of Delegation during this quarter. Consequently some activities planned for this quarter have been delayed. As of April 1 the Programme Manager will only work with Disaster Preparedness. As a result, it is foreseen that all activities originally planned for the first half of the year will be carried out.

#### **Additional positive development during the quarter**

**Stability Pact Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) workshop in Budapest:** March 11-12 was organized by the Hungarian Directorate for Disaster Management as a follow up to earlier DPPI workshops. The Disaster Preparedness Delegate participated in this workshop. The objective was to discuss and agree upon some of the project proposals that the countries in the region have prepared as a result of the DPPI Operational Team report of June 2001. In some of these projects, the Red Cross has been involved in the preparation and will also be involved in the implementation.

During this workshop it was also agreed that the Federation, through the Regional Delegation in Budapest, will continue to be involved in the DPPI.

The continued involvement of the Regional Delegation in the Stability Pact DPPI activities in the region will not only give the Regional Delegation access to good information regarding the developments in Disaster Preparedness in the region, but also a very good possibility to be a partner in this development. The National Societies in this region are greatly benefiting from this.

### ***Humanitarian Values***

Due to funding limitations, 2001 ended with the Communications Unit pursuing new directions in a strategy designed to overcome restrictions and remain on course towards the primary outcomes sought by the end of 2003. The first quarter of 2002 saw fresh challenges at a time when the requirement for communications assistance in some countries was critical. Human resources for the provision of services to 15 national societies were reduced to 1.5 people, and response to the 2002-2003 appeal was extremely disappointing. As a consequence, it was again necessary to refocus.

The nine-month delay in identifying and hiring a promised second information delegate, and the glaring absence of support - and will - for the establishment of a regional information team, left the Communications Unit overstretched. Of particular concern was the fact that the Unit could not address the chronic need for professional media and information activity in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Planned activities have been either severely compromised or made impossible.

Priorities are being re-prioritized and a revised plan of action and modified budget will be presented in the mid-year review.

**Objective 1:** *To develop and strengthen communications capacity of national societies in the region.*

To help establish communication departments as effective units within national societies, and have them recognized as such by the leadership, work continued to identify communications counterparts and develop good working relationships with them. Three national societies were targeted in the first quarter with follow-up activity planned for the second quarter.

The web site for the European Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (ERNA), established in the last quarter of 2001, was further developed, and NS contributions encouraged. An ERNA brochure was also produced by the Communications Unit to be introduced at April's 6th European Regional Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference in Berlin. The work was carried out in close collaboration with the Health and Care programme which funded the activity, and was another example of how, through cooperation, the Unit can remain on course towards its sought-after primary outcomes despite the absence of its own funding. Other examples of the policy were communications sessions held in Disaster Management and Participatory Community Development workshops. But funding must be acquired if the Unit is to go ahead with planned sub-regional training-of-trainers workshops and support for the translation of the Movement's Communicators' Guide into the region's national languages. None was pledged in the first quarter articles and news stories were produced for Federation print and electronic media, and media releases sent out, related to winter emergencies, HIV/AIDS, population movement and social welfare activity

**Objective 2:** *To promote understanding of Red Cross humanitarian values, principles and work.*

No funding was pledged for joint ventures with the ICRC to provide a humanitarian component for the training programmes of the South-East European Network for Professionalization of the Media (SEENPM), and to organize three individual workshops in which national societies will be brought together with media. These activities are still scheduled from the summer onwards, and dialogue continues with SEENPM. Given the poor funding situation, the mid-year revised plan of action will drop plans for a Red Cross media award for humanitarian reporting, and for the translation into national languages of the CD-Rom *From Principles to Action*.

### ***The Bridge***

Work has progressed satisfactorily on *The Bridge*, the region's quarterly publication facilitating knowledge sharing, best practice sharing, the definition of issues, self-esteem building, and the promotion of humanitarian values, advocacy and regional thinking and action. The first quarter's issue again appeared in a Hungarian edition as well as an English-language one, and plans were discussed with both the Polish Red Cross and the Bulgarian Red Cross for their own editions. These will begin to appear as soon as possible in the course of the year, and it is hoped a fourth national edition will appear before the end of the year. The RD is now looking for sustainable, possibly corporate sponsorship for 2003-2004.

In preparation for the European Conference in Berlin, the Communications Unit researched and produced a range of articles on the twin conference themes of migrants and health. These appeared in *The Bridge*, on the Federation's web site, and in a media briefing kit. The Unit also contributed to a Federation video news release, and produced footage on so-called illegal migrants in Hungary and related Red Cross activity and concern.

The RD's new web site was launched as scheduled in the first quarter. It has been adopted as a pilot for Federation regional web sites.

**Objective 3:** *To establish information emergency teams formed by Federation and national society communications personnel.*

Initial discussion took place and a time-table was produced. This activity will occur within the Disaster Preparedness programme, and a first workshop is provisionally scheduled for the third quarter.

**Objective 4:** *Advocacy and communications guidance for national society, country delegation and regional delegation programmes.*

Regional preparations were begun for the May 8 launch of the global campaign against stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS. A chapter on "Reducing earthquake risk in urban Europe" was researched and written for the 2002 *World Disasters Report*. A regional launch of this year's report is planned for June, possibly accompanied by a seminar to which disaster specialists from governments, international organizations, and the academic and humanitarian worlds will be invited. The media will also be invited to participate.

The Communications Unit had a productive first quarter but was dangerously stretched. Given the longer-term outlook, the responsible management question must now be whether communications needs are best served by a regional communications unit or by the more strategic, and less expensive use of designated specialists brought in as required for specific requested services.

## **Health and Care**

The first quarter saw the beginnings of some new activities, as well as the continuation of others already in place. Thanks to increased contacts with national societies in the region, and through analysing the results of a questionnaire and the assessment missions undertaken, there is now a better and more clear understanding of what national societies are looking for in terms of support and assistance. Positive and encouraging results have been shown in several areas. As well, new ways of involving the national societies in overall implementation of the regional Health and Care programme have proven to be successful.

There is a wide diversity of activities and programmes in place in the region, ranging from First Aid to Tuberculosis control, HIV/AIDS prevention and more. This translates into a very heavy workload for the Health and Care delegate. The arrival of a part time administrative assistant should help.

**Objective 1.:** *To assist national societies in drawing up strategies for work with health and care.*

## **Health and Care strategy for the region**

**The British Council** has begun using *The Bridge* in its **Peacekeeping English Project** (PEP). Funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department For International Development (DFID), PEP seeks to improve the English-language skills of key armed forces personnel, preparing them for involvement in international cooperation, including international peace-keeping operations. The British Council considered the humanitarian content, and standard of English in *The Bridge*, ideal for use in its courses.

One of the main activities linked to this objective, which was to arrange two sub-regional workshops on health and care (where sub-regional priorities would be defined), has been put on hold. The rationale behind the plan to organise such workshops was to ensure National Society ownership of the programme. The questionnaire showed that this was not in fact a major concern (all National Societies but one responded to the questionnaire). Since the programme is directly formed based on the priorities expressed by the NS's, the workshop implementation has been temporarily delayed. A secondary reason to put this activity on hold is to await the outcome of the Berlin conference, as well as to await the future discussions on how to proceed with a regional assistance strategy.

#### **VI European Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference**

Preparations in the European National Societies are underway for the VI European Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference. The two themes for the conference are Health and Care in the Community, and Migration. The choice of the Health theme follows a request of the Copenhagen declaration (from the Vth Red Cross and Red Crescent conference) which urged the Federation Secretariat to develop a plan of action addressing the health crises in Europe. This has not been achieved, and the conference wants to develop a plan of action aimed at establishing unified health standards. Imbalances in the area of health shall be minimised and solutions outlined to combat the most urgent health problems.

Limited assistance has been provided to National Societies in the region regarding preparatory work for the conference as very few requests for assistance were received from these national societies. However, sporadic assistance has been given by providing links between National Societies, and by giving advice on the preparation of case studies. A mapping document for the HIV/AIDS working group has also been achieved. Support will be provided to the conference by presenting the mapping document.

The senior officer for Health in the Secretariat (Europe) has been more involved with the working groups preparations.

#### **Regional Strategy on Social Welfare**

The development of a specific regional strategy for social welfare has been delayed. It was planned that a consultant would be hired to start a review of current National Society Social Welfare programmes, however, time constraints have not allowed for the development of the Terms of Reference for this task. In the meantime discussions have been held with the British Red Cross and they are awaiting the Terms of Reference in order to possibly fund this activity.

In the field of Social Welfare the regional delegation received an invitation to participate in the 30th International Conference on Social Welfare in Rotterdam, the Netherlands (June 2002). The theme of the conference is "bridging the gaps: economic, social and cultural opportunities at global and local levels".

After discussion with the senior officer for Social Welfare at the Federation Secretariat, it was decided that a suitable candidate would be recruited in the region to represent the regional delegation at this conference. The task of the representative would be to bring back information to the region which would also be shared with the Secretariat (as there will not be another representative from the Federation at the Conference). Selection criteria were established and all National Societies in the region were invited to propose candidates. The candidate selected is from the Bulgarian Red Cross.

#### **Gathering of information**

Two assessment missions were undertaken to the Croatian Red Cross and the Slovenian Red Cross, the latter undertaken by the Federation Health Programme manager from the Bosnia and Herzegovina delegation. Information was gathered about current programmes, constraints and expectations from the Regional Delegation (separate mission reports are available upon request). To date, eleven of the fifteen National Societies in the region have been visited. The findings from these missions, together with the information gathered through answers to questionnaires, have provided the material for a database of Health and Care activities carried out by the Red Cross in the region as well as future directions and expectations on the Federation.

The so called "mapping document" which is a result of this information gathering has already come in handy for the Red Cross EU liaison bureau, who were in need of information about the Health activities of the National Societies in the accession countries.

#### **Health retreat**

A yearly gathering of regional Health and Care delegates, PNS Health advisors and the staff of the Secretariat Health and Care department was attended. The meeting is mainly an information sharing/networking and learning meeting, and is not a fund-raising opportunity. The themes discussed were

- Verticalisation and Integration, the power of good planning
- Promoting integration at Regional Delegation, National Society Headquarters and Branch levels
- Supporting National Societies in CCM (Country Co-ordination Mechanisms for the Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) and other partnerships.

The recommendations/action points which are relevant to this region on a technical programme basis can be found below. After each action point there is information on progress to date.

**• Work with the participants at the Barcelona International Aids Conference. Opportunity to brief and get the National Societies engaged.**

At previous International AIDS conferences the Federation has mainly invited Health professionals. This year a decision was made to invite leadership of National Societies in order to encourage involvement in the issues at a higher level.

Discussions with the Head of Regional Delegation have started on how the two representatives who have been invited from our region can be supported and prepared. The two representatives are Dipl. Ing. Bohdan Telgarsky, Secretary General of the Slovak Red Cross, and Dr. Valdis Nagobads, President of the Latvian Red Cross. ;

**• Two Regional Delegations to engage in building, through PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation), the conditions for initiating water and sanitation programmes.**

Water and Sanitation are not a main priority for National Societies in this region, mainly due to the fact that governments provide this service. However, there are r problems of hygiene and water & sanitation in certain disadvantaged communities. The regional Participatory Community Development (PCD) programme is working with some of these communities on a pilot basis and a number of pilot programmes on a small scale community level are in the process of being executed. The material about PHAST will be shared with the PCD programme.

**• Two Regional Delegations to incorporate promotion of voluntary non remunerated blood donor recruitment in their programmes.**

The regional delegations in Bangkok and Budapest are the only delegations which have already done this and experience will be shared upon request.

**• Implement the suggestions made at the retreat for greater integration at all levels and report on progress made.**

Integration at the Regional Delegation level is not an issue in Central Europe. All regional health and care themes are managed by one regional delegate and one newly employed part time assistant dealing only with administration. This set-up hinders any integration problems. Within the delegation, the regional Youth development programme, the Participatory Community Development programme and the regional Humanitarian Values programme are working closely with the regional Health and Care programme. A further analysis of the situation at the National Society level is needed in order to see in which way integration can be encouraged.

**• Develop, circulate and implement a strategy to support National Society access to the Global Fund for Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria with the input provided.**

Follow up will be done together with the European Red Cross/Red Crescent network on HIV/AIDS (ERNA).

**• Regional Delegations and health advisors to develop strategies to work more closely with organisations of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).**

In Central Europe an unofficial partnership has been establish with ENP+ (European Network for People living with HIV/AIDS). This has been done in collaboration with ERNA and it is between the two networks that the regional programme has encouraged co-operation and collaboration. To date no joint projects or plans have been elaborated and the regional programme will need to further work on assisting ERNA to realise the full potential of this and other partnerships.

**• Organise, where resources allow, a meeting of all health delegates in the sub-region during the second half of the year.**

In Central Europe the Federation has, in all, three delegate positions working with Health and Care: one regional delegate, one health and care delegate focusing on Social Welfare and Home Care in Belgrade, and one Psychological Support programme manager in Kosovo. Three locally employed

staff; one Social Welfare programme manager in Belgrade, one Health Programme Manager and one Social Welfare Programme Manager in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Contacts are frequent, and meetings occur when the regional programme arranges workshops on different themes that involve the respective delegates. Contacts are maintained as much as possible given time constraints.

**•Develop a Health and Care advocacy agenda for 2002/03 (water and sanitation and voluntary non remunerated blood donor recruitment seen as important). Working group to drive health and care at the international Red Cross/ Red Crescent conference (2003) to be established.**

This action point will be further discussed with the Head of the Communications department.

Other action points on a more administrative / internal functioning level were also made but not reported here. A complete report from the Health Retreat is available upon request.

**Objective 2:** *To build capacity in the National Societies of the region with the aim of achieving more efficient, targeted Health and Care programmes which deliver services to vulnerable groups.*

### **Tuberculosis control**

A meeting on tuberculosis control was held in Geneva and the region's National Societies involved in Tuberculosis control were invited to participate. Four National Societies answered the invitation; the Croatian Red Cross, Estonian Red Cross, Latvian Red Cross and Lithuanian Red Cross. The meeting gathered Red Cross people involved in Tuberculosis control mainly from Europe. One outcome was that the Federation Operational Guidelines that were discussed need to get more input from other parts of the world in order for them to be useful as a Federation document. The draft operational guidelines were amended following the meeting and they will be further discussed at the two regional conferences coming up this year, Europe and Asia.

### **HIV/AIDS**

Continuous technical and administrative support has been provided to the ERNA secretariat. Support was given to the network co-ordinator in the compiling of the annual report and the preparation of the Plan of Action for the network for 2002. Additional support was given to the further development of the web site and to the production of a leaflet about the network.

A two day meeting of the European Network on HIV/AIDS board was attended in Rome. The meeting discussed the plans for 2002 and a separate report from this meeting is available.

Two major ERNA events will be supported in 2002; one workshop on how to plan and implement Harm Reduction programmes (in Yerevan, Armenia in September) and one Project Planning workshop (PPP), venue to be decided in November.

Apart from this ERNA is content with the assistance provided by the regional delegation in the form of developing a pamphlet about ERNA, further development of the ERNA web site and general assistance and capacity building of the ERNA secretariat.

The 13th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm was attended. The conference was held in Slovenia and organized by the International Harm Reduction Association. The main aim of attending this conference was to gain additional knowledge about Harm Reduction; methods, recent research, partners working in this field and to understand the positions of the World Health Organisation and UNAIDS. The knowledge will be used in assisting ERNA in organising the workshop on Harm Reduction in September.

At the Health Retreat an example of a National Society country plan for HIV/AIDS was provided and can be used as an example when assisting National Societies in development of these kind of plans.

### **Psychological support and Blood Donor Recruitment**

The two workshops planned for the second quarter of 2002 were prepared in close collaboration with the senior officers for Blood Donor Recruitment and Psychological Support at the Secretariat. Host National Societies were identified, facilitators identified and contracted, questionnaires sent out in order to plan a suitable programme, case studies prepared and so on.

The workshop on non-remunerated blood donor recruitment will take place in Zagreb, hosted by the Croatian Red Cross, between the 28th and 30th of April. It was originally planned that the Bulgarian Red Cross would be asked to host this workshop, but due to leave of absence of key staff this plan was reconsidered.

The workshop on Psychological Support will be held in Budapest, hosted by the Hungarian Red Cross between the 14th and 18th of May 2002.

The rationale behind asking the respective National Societies to host the events is the following: In the case of Blood Donor Recruitment, support is given through the appeal to the Croatian Red Cross national workshops for blood donor animators. It has been agreed that the Croatian Red Cross will share their experiences and consider these workshops as somewhat of a pilot project. It was thus logical to ask the Croatian Red Cross to host the regional workshop.

In the case of Psychological Support the Hungarian Red Cross was one of three National Societies that attended the conference arranged by the Federation Reference Centre for Psychological Support in 2001. At this conference the Hungarian Red Cross was elected to be a member in the Steering Committee of the European Network for Psychological Support. The Hungarian Red Cross is also running several programmes which include aspects of Psychological support and thus it was logical to ask this National Society to host the workshop.

### **First Aid**

Contacts with the Global First Aid project (based at the Geneva Secretariat) have been weak to date. At the health retreat, valuable information about this project and where it is heading was gathered. The Global First Aid project has been liaising mainly with the reference centre for First Aid education in Brussels, and not with the regional delegation. The regional delegations contacts with the reference centre have been limited due to time constraints, and this should be made a priority during the third quarter in order to clarify the roles of the various actors. A presentation made at the Health retreat about the Global First Aid project is available at the regional delegation upon request.



**Albania: First Aid simulation**

### **Health in Emergencies**

A Disaster Management training took place in Budapest, gathering representatives of National Societies in the region. A couple of the representatives were from the Health sector and modules on Nutrition, Water and Sanitation and Health were part of the training. The regional Health and Care delegate was not involved in any way in this workshop, as this was not requested or encouraged. The sections regarding Health were handled by the Geneva Secretariat Health and Care department directly.

There is a need to discuss if this workshop, as well as a planned second workshop of the same content can replace the planned regional workshop with content including emergency health.

**Objective 3:** *To increase advocacy and the promotion of humanitarian values within the field of health and care.*

A Global campaign on reducing HIV/AIDS related stigma was produced by the Secretariat. The Youth development and Humanitarian Values programmes have been following up with the regions National Societies about this campaign. The launch of the campaign is planned for the 8th of May and the material has yet to reach the National Societies. The late arrival of the material and the fact that many National Societies have traditional activities on the 8th of May are creating obstacles. Continued efforts will be made to encourage National Societies to be involved in this important Global campaign.

World TB day (March 24) was marked in some of the National Societies involved in Tuberculosis control. The message was that tuberculosis is not only a medical problem, but that it is also a reflection of the social and economic challenges that face the poor, the unemployed, the homeless and other vulnerable people.

Tuberculosis is an increasing problem in some of the regions' countries, particularly the Baltic states, Romania and Bulgaria. The National Societies are mainly focusing on public awareness and information/health education in this field.

For World TB day, all the Red Cross branches in Romania mobilised for a public awareness campaign on prevention, diagnosis and treatment. One of the main activities of the Romanian RC in this field is

awareness, as early detection of the disease is crucial for containing tuberculosis. The Bulgarian Red Cross also used March 24 to spread awareness. The National Society has been running a treatment programme in some areas of the country and they are now turning their attention towards preventive efforts in high-incidence regions.

**Objective 4:** *To provide technical and resource support to the health and care programmes implemented by the national societies and the Federation delegation in the region.*

The Yugoslav Red Cross (through support of the Federation) have been distributing feeding bottles as part of humanitarian assistance given to vulnerable families with children under one year of age. This had been discussed several times and it was agreed in the summer of 2001 that the feeding bottles would be removed from the parcels. In early 2002 it was discovered that the feeding bottles were still being distributed and changes in staff had evidently meant that the issue had been lost along the way. A summary of policies that guide the Federations' work in the area of breast-feeding and nutrition were sent to the Federation in Belgrade in order for them to deal with this once and for all.

The delegate working with Home Care in support of the Yugoslav Red Cross visited the Home Care programme of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Red Cross in order to exchange experiences. The outcome of this exchange is still to be evaluated.

Support was given to the first of four workshops for Blood Donor animators of the Croatian Red Cross. These workshops aim at increasing the number of youth and first time voluntary blood donors in the country. The report of the workshop is still to be received, as it took place only at the end of the first quarter.

The Slovak Red Cross requested assistance in the planning of a First Aid campaign which was planned to be launched in April. A meeting gathering branch directors and the advertising company contracted was attended at the Slovak Red Cross headquarters. Concerns about the short time limit and the readiness of the branches to accommodate the demands that might come following a national campaign were raised. The campaign has since been cancelled due to lack of donor support.

The Lithuanian Red Cross submitted two project proposals: Participation of Volunteers in the Home Care of Lonely, Old and Sick Socially Vulnerable and a Tuberculosis Prevention Campaign. Comments were given in order to improve the plans and the Lithuanian Red Cross was also offered links to potential donors. Specific results are to be evaluated next quarter.

Continuing efforts were made to assist the Estonian Red Cross in finding a donor for a national HIV/AIDS prevention programme. As these efforts have so far had no success (there are indications that one PNS has made an application to the government for funding and the programme has been included in a global application for HIV/AIDS programmes) financial and technical support has been given in order for the preparatory phase of the programme to go ahead. Translation and printing of the manual "Action with Youth" into Estonian is an important step (the manual already exists in Russian). It has been agreed that funding for this will be given by the regional programme while awaiting donors. The process of receiving bids is now underway for this activity.

### **Other achievements**

Earmarked funds for HIV/AIDS activities in the Balkan countries were received from the Norwegian Red Cross in the second half of 2001. During this quarter the reporting deadline for these funds was negotiated and they now have to be reported only at the end of 2002. However, most activities have been undertaken during this first quarter as the reporting deadline was originally the end of March.

The Action with Youth manual has been translated and printed in (a total number of 3500) in Albania, Bulgaria, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in Macedonia (in two languages, Macedonian and Albanian). In Bosnia Herzegovina the funds have financed four workshops for a total of 140 Peer Educators. The final reports from the concerned National Societies are still awaited, and more complete reporting will be available in the next quarterly report.

Following the regional Partnership meeting in November a number of National Societies expressed interest in the literature list that had been produced listing all resource material gathered by the Health and Care programme. Orders were placed and these books and manuals were ordered and distributed

to the requesting National Societies during the quarter. The British Red Cross donated ten First Aid manuals for this purpose.

### **Constraints**

The financial situation of the programme is unsatisfactory with only one pledge of CHF 100 000 from DFID received so far. The total budget is CHF 778 741. In order to try to encourage support from PNSs that are interested in specific areas, an effort was made to package activities linked to different themes. This was done for Blood Donor Recruitment and for Psychological Support. The Desk Officer in the Secretariat is in charge of forwarding these “packages” to relevant PNS and for follow up. To date there has been no success..

The first quarter was busy but constructive. Encouraging steps were made in many activity areas, and valuable programmes are developing and taking shape. While the workload remains heavy, the part-time administrative assistant should help to relieve some of the pressure. This will be especially important as the next quarter will see the change of staff on the post of regional Health and Care delegate.

The better understanding of the Health and Care situation in the region is a very positive development, and is a rewarding result for much effort in contacting, visiting and polling the national societies concerned. This greater awareness provides a solid basis for all future Health and Care work in the region.

### **Organizational Development**

The organizational development programme has seen some major changes in the recent past. This has included the departure of several delegates, whose positions are still to be filled. At the same time, the Youth and Participatory Community Development programmes have been showing excellent results, going from strength to strength and attracting considerable interest. The Youth programme is currently in the process of handing over its activities to the national societies. The PCD programme is expanding into new countries, with several new national societies eager to participate. Due to the absence of OD delegates in the other objective areas of the Appeal, only the Youth and Participatory Community Development activities will be reported on here. Once the delegate positions for the other objectives are filled, the activities and programmes originally outlined in the appeal will be reexamined and revised or altered as necessary.

**Objective 5:** *To improve the ability of Red Cross societies to identify the needs of vulnerable people, and to develop effective programmes and partnerships to meet those needs. Two approaches (participatory community development, and vulnerability capacity assessment) developed at the regional delegation, will focus on assisting national societies to better identify vulnerable people and their needs, and to meet in more effective ways those needs.*

Implement the participatory community development (PCD) project in six national societies bringing stakeholders together to build partnerships and implement micro-projects identified through needs assessments. The PCD methodology is based on participatory rapid appraisal techniques, and the use of micro-projects and future search conferences to address identified needs. Experience from the successful pilot project in Hungary will be used for replication of the programme in the region.

#### *Participatory Community Development (PCD)*

*To ensure regular participation of vulnerable groups in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the National Societies' programmes and projects that affect their lives.*

The implementation of the Participatory Community Development (PCD) Programme has started in four Central European Countries and expanded in Hungary. Two other countries in the region will join the PCD programme in the second half of 2002.

### **Hungary**



, Programme implementation started on 1st of January 2002, through the IFRC delegation and in cooperation with the Macedonian Red Cross.

- ◆ PCD coordinator hired at the Federation Macedonia Country Delegation. Coordinator works in close cooperation with her counterpart within the Macedonian Red Cross Headquarters.
- ◆ Three municipalities selected: Veles, Kocani and the refugee camp of Shuto Orizari. Bearing in mind that the refugees have been in the country almost three years, and that they have established care and assistance from other organizations (UNHCR, MRC, among others,) a decision was made to work instead with the locally vulnerable population in the immediate area of the camp. The training handout and manual were translated and adapted into Macedonian .
- ◆ First PRA training facilitated by the regional PCD coordinator. In the other two communities (Kocani, Cair) the PCD coordinator facilitated the PRA training. Different stakeholders were invited: local NGOs; local Governmental authorities; vulnerable people from the community; as well as RC volunteers and employees. The PRA training was followed by regular meetings of the participants. In all of the communities the secondary data source collection and the fieldwork has begun.
- ◆ Participants have already developed the basic training with new sessions such as team work, values and attitudes. In addition, the local Red Cross branches have developed new relationships with other local organizations and have also attracted new volunteers.
- ◆ Local media has shown considerable interest and has informed the public about the programme through TV and newspaper.
- ◆ Cooperation within the Red Cross is very good at each level. Country coordinator has regular contacts with the PCD coordinator at the Budapest Regional Delegation and with other coordinators, largely via the Internet. Within the Red Cross there is good cooperation and information flow at all levels, from the PCD coordinator to the local branches. Although at the beginning the local NGOs did not show much interest, at the moment there is good and enthusiastic cooperation. Efforts were also made to expand the activities and cooperation in the local community.
- ◆ PCD implementation is going according to the regional and country work plan. It seems that the Macedonian PCD could well become a model for other countries in the future.

### ***Bulgaria***

Based on the Hungarian pilot, PCD was started in Bulgaria. In January 2002, the regional PCD coordinator visited the country and had a meeting in one of the chosen municipalities. The basic components of the project were defined. The Bulgarian Red Cross had earlier experience working with Roma people and there are other bilateral programmes for Roma people, for example in Yambol. Programme implementation started on January 1, 2002, through the Bulgarian Red Cross Headquarters.

- ◆ The PCD coordinator was hired at the Bulgarian Red Cross Headquarters. The coordinator carries out the PCD in Bulgaria with a close cooperation of the participating Red Cross Branches.
- ◆ Three municipalities were selected: Sofia, Razgrad and Sliven.
- ◆ The training handout and manual were translated and adopted in Bulgarian language.
- ◆ The first PRA training was facilitated by the regional PCD coordinator, interpreted by the country coordinator in Sofia.
- ◆ In the other two communities (Sliven and Razgrad) the PCD coordinator facilitated the PRA training. In all of the communities, different stakeholders were invited: local NGOs; local Governmental authorities; vulnerable people from the community; RC volunteers and employees. The PRA training was followed by regular meetings of the participants. In all of the communities the secondary data sources and the fieldwork started.
- ◆ Although PCD is still in the beginning phase in Bulgaria, the participants already gave positive feedback about their better understanding of vulnerable people's need and vulnerability.
- ◆ The PCD coordinator at the Bulgarian Red Cross made contact with other organizations in order to get support for the targeted vulnerable people. The Bulgarian Red Cross has already planned the cascading of PCD within the organization. The next step is to find funding from both national and international donors.

### ***Federal Republic of Yugoslavia***

The FRY Red Cross had some advance experience regarding PCD implementation. Through the PRA in Vojvodina, the training manual and handout was translated and some good trainers were chosen. However, implementation of PCD has not started yet. The FRY Red Cross has asked the Regional Delegation PCD coordinator's patience: the structural changes of the FRY Red Cross and the election temporarily delayed the implementation of the programme. The regional PCD coordinator visited the FRY RC and got an agreement regarding PCD implementation. From the time of the commitment of the FRY Red Cross, the regional PCD coordinator and the head of the OD unit of FRY RC have had permanent communication.

It has been noted that the deadline for PCD implementation may have to be postponed until spring 2003.

- The PCD coordinator was hired at the Serbian Red Cross .
- The three communities were chosen, two in Serbia (Sabac, Kursumlija), and one in Montenegro (Podgorica).

The PRA training will be facilitated in the second quarter of 2002.

### ***Slovakia***

As is the case in the Balkans and also for Hungary, the Norwegian Red Cross expressed its willingness to support PCD implementation in Slovakia.

The idea of PCD implementation in Slovakia was expressed at the Partnership Meeting in November 2001, with the actual negotiations beginning in 2002.

The Slovak Red Cross expressed their readiness to join the regional PCD programme and a PCD coordinator was chosen at the Slovak Red Cross Headquarters.

The PCD coordinator and a Red Cross colleague participated at the regional PCD coordinator workshop.

After the introduction of the PCD programme, the Slovak Red Cross realized that it did not in fact have the capacity in place to correctly run the PCD programme. As a result, the Slovak Red Cross leadership decided not to join to the regional PCD programme. It could be a sign for the OD delegate in the future that the Slovak Red Cross may need more help in the area of organizational development. In agreement with the Norwegian Red Cross, the Regional Delegation will not implement PCD in Slovakia in 2002.

### ***Poland***

At the Partnership Meeting, the regional PCD coordinator discussed the opportunity for Poland to join the regional PCD programme with the representative of the Polish Red Cross. According to the pledge situation, in 2002 there were no funds for Poland.

However, when Slovakia decided not to join the programme, Poland showed a renewed interest in joining.

In agreement with the Regional Delegation leadership and the donor, PCD will be implemented in Poland in May 2002 - June 2003.

The preparatory work has already started. Supporting and introductory materials were sent to the Secretary General of the Polish Red Cross. In addition, the regional PCD coordinator will visit Poland in April 2002.

### ***Albania***

The Albanian Red Cross had shown its interest in PCD in 2001. As a result, they included PCD in the Appeal for 2002. The two communities where PCD is supposed to be implemented were chosen. The regional PCD coordinator has permanent contacts with the coordinator at the Albanian Red Cross. It is planned that PCD implementation will start in June.

Unfortunately the Albanian coordinator was invited for the regional PCD coordinator workshop, but he could not come to Budapest.

As soon the Albanian Red Cross is ready to implement the PCD, the regional PCD coordinator will support them with training material and introduction of participatory methods. The coordinator get all of the information from the PCD in the region and part of the PCD network.

### ***Kosovo***

A project proposal was introduced to the regional PCD coordinator, on the initiative of the Community Resource Center of Kosovo. The proposal was modified by the Netherlands Red Cross in 2002 February.

During the Kosovo Psychosocial Programme Plan of Action Phase II, the Federation country delegation, in cooperation with the American Red Cross and the local Red Cross branches, was willing to implement PCD.

Based on the idea of starting community development after 2-3 years of aid and support, PCD will be implemented in three communities from August 2002. The existing Community Resource Center will be the base of the implementation for the programme.

*Vulnerability Capacity Assessment: To assist national societies to better identify vulnerable people and their needs, and to meet in more effective ways those needs*

At present the Federation VCA approach through the “from needs to Action” is implemented in Albania. This methodology is applied at the RC Branch level and involves both staff and young volunteer in gradual training and implementation process.

These activities are funded thanks to the support of the Disaster Preparedness programme

The project has also been proposed to two new National Societies - Lithuania and Slovakia. In both cases it is hoped that there will be two target groups - youth and those affected by disaster.

More details on activities carried out will be available in the next programme update.

**Lithuania** -The Lithuanian RC received an official letter from the Regional Delegation and after internal consultation the VCR coordinator was invited for an official introductory visit (end of June) to present the concept to the Executive Board.

**Slovakia** - It is hoped that the programme will receive the necessary support for it to be implemented in Slovakia.

### **Youth**

The Regional Youth Development Programme - formerly being a separate programme with its own Appeal document - has become an integral part of the Regional Delegation’s Organizational Development Appeal 2002. The Programme had already begun its phasing out, thus its role was redefined and planned activities scaled down. Currently the primary focus is on providing already established services and training and supporting the regional youth network.

As part of this change process a new position of RYDP Officer has been defined, advertised and filled.

Ms. Nemanic, a Slovenian Red Cross Youth volunteer, will assume her position on 1<sup>st</sup> of April. In order to ensure a proper handover process, the contract period of the Regional Youth Delegate had been extended from the beginning of February until May.

**Objective 6:** *To strengthen Red Cross Societies’ youth sections to carry out effective services and programmes that improve the lives of vulnerable young people.*

During this reporting period all of the established communication services were continuously provided: maintenance of the regional e-mail groups; regular updating of the Regional Youth Roster; updating of the Website ([www.ifrccee.org/youth](http://www.ifrccee.org/youth)). Communication support was provided to networking initiatives of the National Societies Youth sections. The final report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional RC Youth Conference 2001 was prepared, and together with other supporting documents shared with respective NSs.

Preparations for the launch of the global HIV/AIDS campaign implementation in Central Europe began in cooperation with the Regional Communications Unit and the Regional Health Programme. This included consultations and communication with all Red Cross Youth sections in the region.

Preparations and initial introduction of the “Hunger Day” campaign (16 October), (planned at the Regional Youth Conference for early February), had to be postponed due to the extent of activities concerning the AIDS campaign.

Revised versions of the CAPI Youth 1 and 2 (Customised Assessment and Performance Indicators) – a tool that can be utilised in self-assessment processes of the Youth sections, was published at the Program’s website and shared with all NSs.

The regional youth programme has developed and tested methods to facilitate the design of the national youth development plans and policies. These methods encourage greater national society ownership and responsibility towards their youth programs.

The National Youth Development Plans Preparation and Implementation process, which has been developed and tested by the Program in 2000 - 2001, was successfully finished. Based on the reports and feedback received from the five NSs that had participated in the pilot phase, a final proposal for future implementation was compiled. With this framework, one follow up workshop in Slovakia was held in order to ensure proper implementation of the prepared plans.

## **Regional Cooperation**

The aim of this programme is to promote regional cooperation between the Red Cross national societies of Central Europe and other components of the Movement. It also aims to develop and strengthen partnerships with other institutions.

In order to achieve these aims the Regional Delegation has, throughout the previous years, established a very good partnership with the Regional Delegation of the ICRC in Budapest - today the ICRC Regional Delegation is participating in all major events that the Regional Delegation is organizing in the region and the Regional Delegation is consequently participating in many of ICRC's regional events. But this active participation is also to be seen in many of the programmes. One example is Disaster preparedness where ICRC has linked their activities in Conflict Preparedness to the regional Disaster Preparedness programme. Another example is the Bridge where ICRC provides material for each issue of the paper. Other fields where this participation has been developed and increased are Planning and Regional Cooperation (organization of Meeting such as Leadership Meeting or Partnership Meeting)

Another way of improving the regional cooperation is the increased cooperation with other actors in the 'Humanitarian field'. Therefore contacts have been taken with members of the UN family working in the region and it can be expected that the contacts with UNHCR, UNDP and UNICEF will be much more intense in the future.

During 2000 the Regional Delegation became the Federation representative in the Stability Pact Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI). This work has since then developed in a very positive way for the Regional Delegation. In a meeting in Budapest in March, DPPI asked the Federation to continue its involvement in DPPI. The Europe Department decided late March that the Regional Delegation will continue to represent the Red Cross in the DPPI.

In the appeal 2002-03 the Regional Delegation had five specific objectives identified in order to achieve the Regional Co-operation goal, namely:

**Objective 1:** *To contribute to the production of a regional assistance strategy (RAS) that will be the regional, long term (3-5 years) framework for co-operation and partnership in central Europe based on regional realities and needs within the framework of Strategy 2010 and the Federation global priorities.*

The work to develop a Regional Assistance Strategy was put on hold late November 2001 in order to give more time for preparatory discussions on how to conclude the work. The Regional Assistance Strategy concept needs to be reviewed in line with the new Programme Coordination Strategy recently developed and drafted by the Federation Secretariat as well as with the Europe Implementation Strategy. The completion of these strategy are planned for the beginning of the third quarter It is assumed that the process will be resumed autumn 2002.

**Objective 2:** *To develop together with those national societies concerned the "second generation" of country assistance strategies in central Europe.*

Following the postponement of the RAS process (see objective 1) and the fact that the Regional Delegation still does not have a Programme Manager for the Organizational Development Programme the work to support the National Societies to develop a second generation of CASs has been delayed until autumn 2002.

**Objective 3:** *To support the reinforcement of regional exchange, cooperation and networking.*

The regional exchange, co-operation and networking has been and remains a very important part of the regional work. During this period there have been many achievements in this respect, especially in the ERNA (Health- HIV/AIDS) and PERCO (Population Movement) networks, in the DPPI - Stability Pact (DP) work where the involvement will continue, in the Nordic-Baltic work where the co-operation has deepened and in the regional Disaster Preparedness work where the network is now very strong.

The networking, knowledge and experience sharing was one of the strong outcome of the regional workshops organized through the core programmes.

The regional work within this objective will continue to be one of the most important parts of the regional tasks for the rest of this and the coming years.

**Objective 4:** *To build national societies' confidence in working as a Federation and establish a strong Red Cross network between all Movement in central Europe based on the needs to share knowledge and experiences.*

There have not been any specific activities in favour of this objective during this period. The main activities are expected to take place during the 2nd and 3rd quarters of this year.

The leadership Meeting is planned for the beginning of 2003. A regional Partnership Meeting will be organized beginning of October 2002.

**Objective 5:** *To support the preparations for national society to enter the EU and to benefit from its cooperation. Ten of the 13 EU candidate states are in central Europe.*

During this period the preparations in the Regional Delegation have continued in order to support the National Societies in their preparations for the coming EU accession. Special arrangements have been discussed and agreed with the EU Red Cross office in Brussels regarding EU enlargement. The Regional Delegation together with the EU RC Office is in the process to recruit a staff on loan for this task in the second part of the year.

The work to promote regional co-operation is one of the most important tasks for the Regional Delegation. The work has been very successful in the sense that there is much more co-operation taking place in the region today - not necessarily on the initiative by the Regional Delegation but voluntarily in full collaboration with the Delegation. This development is very promising and the future support from the Regional Delegation will very much encourage this development.

## **Coordination and Management**

The area of coordination and management is an important one for the Regional Delegation. The three objectives outlined in the appeal are met through the activities of the Regional Finance Unit, the Human Resources Department, the Regional Logistics Unit, and the Planning and Reporting Unit. Each of these departments provide a range of services and support, often acting as an important link between programmes, programme managers, national societies, donor national societies and outside institutions. The leadership and advice of the various departments is often sought, with consultations occurring on a daily basis. The three objectives in the area of coordination and management have been defined as:

**Objective 1:** *To develop improved mechanisms for efficient coordination and management of the regional delegation vis a vis country delegations and national societies within the region.*

**Objective 2:** *Provide cost-effective technical services to support all programme managers in national societies, country delegations and in bilateral Red Cross offices operating within the region.*

**Objective 3:** *Contribute to the decentralization and regionalization process initiated by the Secretariat.*

### **Regional Finance Unit**

Currently those reporting directly to the unit are: FYR Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, FR Yugoslavia, and the Budapest Regional Delegation.

Apart from the day to day work involved in running a finance unit, the main activities of note for the first quarter included the following:

- Regular processing of financial accounts and financial management of projects as per terms of reference.
- Donor reports checked by the RFU when received from country delegations.
- Training of finance staff from Macedonia in CODA.
- Training of programme delegates in financial procedures (BiH and RD Budapest).
- Training of Croatia RC and BiH RC in working advance and general Federation financial procedures.
- Training of Participatory Community Development project managers in working advance procedures. Participants from the following NS: Bulgaria, Slovakia, Macedonia and Hungary

Current staff in the RFU consists of the Head of RFU, a Finance manager, a Finance assistant and two Finance officers.

Plans for the next quarter include the following:

- Further training of programme delegates, country delegations, in financial procedures
- Training of programme delegates in financial tools available on the internet such as: Financial Monitoring Report and Business Object
- Training of NS in working advance procedures
- Expansion of the RFU (still under discussion)

#### *Other Developments*

A new concept in the Federation, that of "Budget Holder" has been developed. This concept will give programme delegates more possibilities to control their projects. Budget Holders will have full responsibility for both income and expenditure. The RFU will move away from doing actual financial management, becoming instead a service provider of financial information in order for programme delegates to be able to better manage their projects.

#### **Regional Human Resource Programme**

During the first quarter of 2002, a total of five persons from the region applied for delegate positions. Although several applications are still being processed, it appears that securing funding for regionally recruited delegates will be more difficult in 2002. Some of the sources of funding used during 2001 are no longer available. This may impact on how successful this programme will be in achieving the expected percentages by the end of the year. One delegate from the region on a second mission was confirmed for a further nine month period.

Discussions during the first quarter with some National Societies in the region concerning human resource development needs have revealed a broad range of needs depending on individual NS levels of development and staffing. In view of this, the programme will address National Society HR development needs on a case by case basis, rather than through a regional or sub- regional HR meeting.

In February the HR / personnel officer from the Albanian RC spent 10 days at the Regional Delegation, shadowing the HR coordinators and discussing HR practices and opportunities for further developing the function within the National Society. A planned on-site visit to Albania will allow for more practical assistance in-country, including support with the organization of a first general Red Cross Movement induction course for NS staff. This model for coaching will be used with other National Societies requesting assistance.

The role of the HR and Training Unit in supporting the delegations in the region with HR issues is also developing. Support provided to country delegations in 2001 involving advice and assistance with staffing, job descriptions and organization will continue where requested. The HR implications of country delegations reporting directly to the Regional Delegation are also being discussed, including the RD's role in delegate recruitment issues.

The concept of a combined Human Resource and Training Unit continues to develop, with a strong emphasis on the training component. During the first quarter the Unit has provided support to the Secretariat in co-facilitating Project Planning Process (PPP) training, with one course in Geneva and a second at the beginning of the 2nd quarter for the FR Yugoslavia delegation. Two more courses are planned in the region for the second quarter - sub delegation Kosovo and for NS and delegation DPP staff in the region. Work has still to be done on the role of the RD in following up on this initial training with NS and delegation staff.

A regional training calendar is regularly updated and has been shared during the first quarter with some interested partners. A more systematic approach for sharing with National Societies will be developed in the second quarter.

A proposal has been developed and submitted to the Hellenic RC requesting support for a number of planned training courses during the year including Project Planning Process (PPP), basic logistics workshop, disaster management and information ERU training.

The Unit has also trained RD local staff in the PDR system which will be the basis for the annual appraisal system for both local staff and delegates.

**Regional Logistics Unit**

Since the beginning of 2002, the level of procurement has been low, with notable slow down registered in the activities of RLU. This low level of activities is related to the development of the situation in the Region. Activities in Macedonia remain on a significantly low scale logistically. The Federation Albania delegation has been closed and FRY delegation have down-scaled activities in relief support. Activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina are scaling down due to the same operational changes that are now a trend in the region.

The RLU have provided procurement services to the American Red Cross in Macedonia and have done a number of preparations for upcoming procurement of food stuffs under UNHCR /Federation projects in the same country. Actions were taken in the process of reinforcing regulations in the Regional Delegation, where RLU participated in its area of expertise; procurement procedures and fleet management regulations.

At the end of January and beginning of February 2002, RLU was involved in to DM workshop where a logistics presentation was held, and the HoRLU participated in a workshop. In February a request was given through RD to Hellenic Red Cross, to possibly fund Regional Logistics Workshop in this region.

*Procurement*

The total value of procurements executed by the RLU, Budapest during the 1st quarter of the year 2002 was CHF 139.974,66.

Summary Table - Procurement January - March 2002

Location	January	February	March	Total P.O.	Total CBA	Total CHF
Abu Dhabi	0.00	406,00	570,72	2.00	0.00	976,72
RD	0.00	0.00	217,50	2.00	0.00	217,50
Macedonia	0.00	0.00	112.514,40	1.00	1.00	112.514,40
FRY	26.266,04	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	26.266,04

<b>Totals</b>	<b>26.266,04</b>	<b>406,00</b>	<b>113.302,62</b>	<b>7,00</b>	<b>3,00</b>	<b>139.974,66</b>
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### *Warehousing*

Nothing significant to report  
Activity is not provided by RLU Budapest

### *Vehicle fleet management*

During period of January-March 2002, the RLU continued with fleet related support to Delegations in the Region. Major activities for this period were related to the transport of six (4) Mercedes Benz trucks received last year from Albania to Brussels.

Numbers of vehicles were registered, de-registered, dispatched to the field or sent to Brussels to be sold. At the same time a number of vehicles were in Budapest for service. Some vehicles were damaged while used within the region and repairs were completed in Budapest. Due to the scaling down of operations in the region, leased vehicles from respective delegations were continuously received in and or transferred through Budapest.

During the period, necessary actions were taken for keeping the vehicles in stock, roadworthy. A number of the vehicles were repaired, repainted and serviced. The head of RLU and SLPO have conducted a trip to FRY and Kosovo (FRY) to assess the fleet situation and arrange necessary actions to apply standard Federation Requirements with regard to fleet composition. A report was produced and adequate actions were proposed to both Head of Kosovo Sub Delegation and to Head of Delegation in Belgrade, FRY.

No vehicles were reported stolen.

It is important to note that at the beginning of the period Senior Logistics Officer (Vehicle Fleet Manager) Zoltan Dako was recruited by the Secretariat and sent for a 3 months mission as Fleet Delegate in the Abu Dhabi Logistics Base. At the same time, the Procurement Officer is covering the duties of senior Logistics Officer, fulfilling both duties full scale.

### *Clearing and dispatch*

Most of the workload during the period involved daily contacts with clearing agents and customs involved in the procedure of importation and exportation of various goods in transit to Delegations in the area, assistance to the Vehicle Fleet manager and organization of daily dispatch of vehicles.

### *Future Plans*

The RLU Budapest is to be reorganized due to staffing changes, and with consideration of the funding situation. The idea is to keep as low a profile as possible without affecting the quality of services provided

Actions will be taken to develop tools for logistics mapping and location mapping for a possible RLU change of location.

### ***Outstanding needs***

The Budapest Regional Delegation for Central Europe is entering what looks to be a transitional period. While some countries are moving towards admittance to the European Union, others are emerging from the shackles of war and large-scale conflict. The nature of Red Cross operations in the region has begun to change accordingly. The Regional delegation is in a key position to be able to continue to develop, advise and support the national societies involved. These national societies have already experienced much, and have built a wealth of knowledge and capacities in various areas. They are still looking towards the Regional Delegation for support and guidance. It can perhaps be described as a more mature relationship, one that has passed from the elements of large-scale relief operations to more sophisticated areas such as communications, PCD, reporting and planning and disaster preparedness. The Regional Delegation needs donor support to continue in its leadership and formative role. At the same time the Regional Delegation needs to continue its own process of change

and evolution, redefining its role and future directions. With the region moving in what looks like a firm positive direction, the Regional Delegation is ready to assume new responsibilities and tasks. It seems likely that partnerships and cooperation with donor national societies will become more important than ever, as programmes become more sophisticated and targeted.

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

John Horekens  
Director  
Division of External Relations

Lynette Lowndes  
Head  
Europe Department

<b>Budapest regional</b>						ANNEX 1	
<b>APPEAL No. 01.42/2002</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>				03.07.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
<b>CASH</b>							
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>7'727'142</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 42.7%</b>	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				1'861'403			
Programme support				499'400			
Programme support RFU				177'540			
BRITISH - RC				18'500	25.01.2002	REGIONAL YOUTH DELEGATE	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				250'000	19.02.2002	ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH	
CANADIAN - RC				1'029	CAD	27.05.2002	REGIONAL PROGRAMMES
FINNISH - RC				16'819	EUR	05.02.2002	HUMANITARIAN VALUES
GERMAN - RC				5'745	EUR	01.03.2002	EUROPEAN YOUTH MEETING
NETHERLANDS - RC				61'327	EUR	17.04.2002	BRIDGE PUBLICATION
SWEDISH - RC				334'000	SEK	15.04.2002	DISASTER RESPONSE, INSTITUTIONAL & RESOURCE DEV. COORDINATION & MGT
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>2'983'900</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>38.6%</b>	
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>							
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			1'150			
NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			44'846			
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			87'063			
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			84'928			
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			47'500			
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			47'500			
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>312'987</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>							
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>CHF</b>		
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>							