

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

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 01.42/02

Appeal Target CHF 7,727,142; the Appeal budget was revised (internally) during the period and reduced to an operational figure of CHF 6,561,048 (bringing the actual coverage of the Appeal up to 89,56%)

Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: June - December 2002



IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 76%

Related Appeals: None

Summary: The Central Europe region is moving in new directions following the Secretariat internal change process, with the development of the Secretariat's strategy for change. The Regional Delegation for Central Europe has been adapting itself accordingly (change into the delegation structure). Progress was made in the plans for integration of the accession states into an enlarged European Union, following up on discussions held during the Berlin Conference earlier this year. During the reporting period, serious flooding affected parts of Central and Eastern Europe and again caused severe problems for the infrastructure and population in the region. The mobilization of resources and cooperation within national societies in the region was impressive, increasing the regional capacity to respond in time to the disaster and to deliver immediate assistance to the most affected people.

Operational Developments

The implementation of programmes which focus strongly on strengthening the capacities of the fifteen National Societies in the region has continued smoothly. The Regional Delegation is concentrating on the following areas: **Population Movement** (sub-regional programme in the Balkans), **Disaster Preparedness, Health and Care, Humanitarian Values** and **Organizational Development**. In response to changes in the region, the Regional Delegation is reviewing its approach and is starting to reshape its services to tailor better the needs of to National Societies

The news from the European Commission that Enlargement of the European Union (EU) will go ahead in mid 2004 was widely welcomed in the Central European region. For eight countries in the region this is the reward

for almost a decade of huge changes that have been made to the economic and social systems so as to bring them into line with EU criteria for accession. For two other countries, Romania and Bulgaria, the door has been left open and they too should become members within the next five years. Such a historic enlargement has consequences for all and new opportunities await the prospective members of the EU. For the Federation, EU Enlargement also has implications. New opportunities to form partnerships with expert bodies in EU institutions and benefit from exploring how this can be used to the benefit of people in the region.

The recent floods in Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Albania had quite a strong impact in the regional delegation's work during this period. The delegation, together with the respective national societies, and supported by Fact and Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT), launched two Emergency Appeals for the 'Central Europe Floods' and 'Albanian floods' in August and September. The CE Floods appeal was well received and the response covers the whole appeal budget.

Disaster Response (Population Movement in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)

The International Movement of the Red Cross is deeply concerned by rapidly increasing vulnerability and need resulting from migration. This year's European Regional Red Cross/ Red Crescent Conference held in Berlin during April, selected the theme of migration and population movement as one of two main themes. The objective was to adopt a comprehensive plan of action that would "enable NSs to tackle this issue in an ordered fashion" (paragraph from the Summary Paper produced by the Operational Guidance Working Group).

In the area of operation of the sub-regional Population Movement Programme a search for so-called durable solutions is continuing. The return process in Croatia has picked-up during the first half of 2002 with more and more returnees from FRY choosing to opt for organised return, via UNHCR and Croatian RCA, as opposed to the spontaneous way prevalent during the last few years.

Minority returns, both of DPs and refugees are continuing to and within Bosnia-Herzegovina, while regrettably many of the returnees are "falling through the cracks" of the system and are still in need of initial support. The disparity between increased returns, (especially minority returns) and assistance available is widening and there is a clear gap that needs to be covered by the Red Cross.

Despite rather pessimistic predictions on return from FR Yugoslavia to Croatia, the numbers indicated are comparably higher than was revealed in the refugee census last year. The new National Strategy for Resolving the Problems of Refugees and IDPs of the Government of Serbia was developed in May and accordingly a new role for the Red Cross in light of the strategy needs to be defined. The situation requires continuing monitoring and co-ordination with all the stakeholders

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

In June 2002 a *Meeting of Experts on Assistance to Asylum-Seekers* was organized in cooperation with the Croatian Red Cross, gathering experts from six European National Societies and representatives from the region. Aiming at sharing and pooling experiences of Red Cross assistance to asylum-seekers in Europe, the meeting replaced previously planned national workshops on asylum (in accordance with the terms of reference of the Mission to assist the National Societies of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the field of Asylum). The meeting was a great success in terms of information sharing among National Societies with vastly different approaches in providing assistance to asylum-seekers. It was also a great opportunity for strategy development and programme/ confidence building for the three National Societies in the region.

In presentations, each National Society brought to the table their unique approach to providing assistance to asylum-seekers. They shared the history of their involvement in this field, their major obstacles encountered and valuable lessons learned. The PM Coordinators in the region had an opportunity to identify similar concerns, scenarios, constraints and opportunities encountered by the other NSs. At the end of the meeting, the

plenary broke into working groups around each PM Coordinator to look more in depth at the particular context of each country and to provide more practical advice.

In light of the Berlin Conference, this meeting was an important step toward greater cooperation among National Societies. Hopefully this initiative can also be expanded to other European National Societies in need of more attention and support to address the growing complexities of asylum-seekers and migrants in their countries.

Regional cooperation within the framework of ECRE (European Council on Refugees and Exiles) and, at a later stage, PERCO, has been explored with NS PM Coordinators and was also an issue discussed during the Meeting of Experts.

The major developments for the PM programme in Yugoslavia included the Expert Meeting on Asylum in Zagreb, organized by the PM Office. National Societies from Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Spain, Bulgaria and Lithuania shared their different models of involvement with asylum-seekers in their respective countries, focusing on the legal base, relationship with their governments, profile of programmes, funding and fundraising, and networking. A separate report on this meeting can be obtained on request. The Yugoslav RCA Delegation included Yugoslav RCA PM Coordinator, Serbian RCA PM focal point and a representative of the Yugoslav RCA Executive board from Montenegro.

The 2nd and 3rd grass-root PM workshop was held in Kikinda (20-21st June) for Vojvodina and in Sutomore (28-29th August) for Montenegro. These two day workshops are primarily targeting the RCA branches but also local authorities, and it is done in collaboration with UNHCR, IOM and respective governments (notably Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Montenegrin Commissioner for Displaced persons). Likewise separate reports on these workshops incl. evaluation exists.

The Yugoslav RCA and Serbian RCA attended a PM workshop in Neum in Bosnia-Herzegovina, looking at points of convergence, exchange experience and learn from colleagues across the border, hence facilitating a sub-regional cooperation in issues pertinent to PM.

Preparatory steps were made for the cross-border information programme with Croatia, the first joint project between Yugoslav RCA/ Croatian RCA since the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia. The five locations were selected and equipped with the necessary technical hard and software. First cross-border test between Knin and Belgrade was successful.

Objective 2 To strengthen the three national societies in the sub-region through programme development

The regional cooperation between the three countries is developing very promisingly which facilitates greatly the return of refugees and/ or their local integration in the country of refuge. The Red Cross has played a significant role in assisting the refugees and the displaced for the last 10 years and it is willing to continue to do so with a changing focus. In general, the worrying trend is the donor fatigue for the area, while the so-called durable solutions are in sight. According to UNHCR the institutional framework for return/ local integration should be in place by 2004, yet until that is reached a final push is needed from the international community. To that end a special meeting of the Humanitarian Issues Working Group (HIWG) in Geneva on the 27.06.02 was called for by UNHCR to ensure and lobby Governments and humanitarian organisations to continue support this final push for the durable solutions for some 850.000 still displaced in the former Yugoslavia.

Due to limited income for the PM programme during the first half of 2002 the focus of the Zagreb Office shifted towards the know-how transfer and advocacy while the assistance needs especially in BiH were unmet. Positioning of National Societies and bilateral initiatives were yielding excellent results in Croatia, while the process is in its embryonic stage in FR Yugoslavia. Apart from advocating on behalf of supporting minority returns new alternative funding being explored, such as the Netherlands RCA/RCA BiH EU CARDS feasibility assessment for a joint project with CARE Netherlands in BiH, which is being facilitated.

The work in the field of asylum is developing very promisingly and the Expert meeting on asylum held in Zagreb has shown that European National Societies have a lot to offer to NSs in the region and provided a unique forum for concrete exchange of experience and know-how.

A meeting between the Asylum expert of a visiting European Union expert mission on Justice and Home Affairs and the Croatian Red Cross management was facilitated. The Croatian Red Cross has expressed its interest in being involved in the setup of future Asylum Centers.

Disaster Preparedness

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

The recent floods in Central Europe and in Albania show that the networking is the key element for better utilization of Disaster Response capacities in the region. It has been mentioned several times before that in the southern part of the region the networking today is functioning well. The National Societies know each other very well and they have several times shown that they consider themselves part of a network. The experiences from the floods show that the Networking is starting to function also in the northern part of the region. More comprehensive information on the floods in Central Europe and red Cross action can be found at the Federation website: http://www.ifrc.org/where/reg_sprep.asp?txtRegion=14

During the floods a new development occurred in the relations between the National Red Cross Societies: The Societies in the region sent financial support to each other in cash but also in kind. The Hungarian Red Cross transferred CHF 6,000 to the Czech Red Cross for a quick response to flood disaster in the Czech Republic. The Polish Red Cross transferred both money and relief supplies to Germany and Czech Red Cross and Slovakian Red Cross supported the Czech Red Cross.

The Regional Disaster Preparedness programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina has taken over the DP programme till the end of 2002. The local programme coordinator will not only cover BiH but also other activities in the southern sub-region and is therefore, as of the second quarter, Sub-Regional DP coordinator for the southern region.

The Disaster Preparedness department funded a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) which was carried out in Lithuania this autumn. Discussions are also on going regarding a VCA to be carried out in Slovakia.

Objective 2 To develop a regional disaster preparedness and 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 cooperation with the Disaster Management and Co-ordination Division in Geneva.

The work to develop a regional disaster response strategy started in mid-April, according to the work plan. The experiences from the floods underline very much the importance of this work and the idea is that the Regional Delegation will be better organized by the end of 2002 in this respect.

Regional Disaster Response Teams

As mentioned in the first quarterly report of this year, the Federation organized a Disaster Management workshop from February to March in Budapest. As a result of this, the Regional Delegation together with Disaster Management and Co-ordination in Geneva, deployed three teams consisting of two or three people each. One for Czech Republic (team-members from Switzerland and Bulgaria), one for Romania (team-members from Germany, Croatia and the Regional Delegation. Later on one person from American RCA joined the team) and one for Slovakia-Hungary (team-members from Austria and Bosnia-Herzegovina).

The teams were deployed quickly and the respective missions lasted for a week. Each team presented a written report after their mission and follow up discussions to this new experience show that the teams did a good job but it also shows that:

- ✓ the Terms of Reference for the teams need to be more precise and defined,
- ✓ it is important to have the agreement with the receiving National Society clear before the teams arrive in the country
- ✓ there are practical details like visas, insurance etc. that needs to be organized beforehand.
- ✓ it is necessary to revise the agenda for the RDRT training in order to become more needs-oriented

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

The first test of the National Society's disaster preparedness plans should have taken place in the fourth quarter, but due to the Central Europe Floods, which required all the NS DM staff involvement & attention, the planned activities will be postponed to the second quarter of 2003.

Humanitarian Values

Ten years after escalating conflict engulfed the former Yugoslavia, Red Cross National Societies continue to face enormous challenges there, and none greater than in the promotion of humanitarian values. The reporting period saw the long-awaited arrival of a second communications delegate for Central Europe, allowing the Regional Communications Unit to begin vital new work in the Balkans.

The Communications Unit worked during the devastating floods and related disasters in much of the region, closely with National Societies to gain high media profile and donor support for their relief operations.

Objective 1: To develop and strengthen communications capacity of National Societies in the region.

Priority in the second half of 2002, and in 2003, is being given to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia where the National Societies are committed to strengthening communications capacity, and have requested Federation support in raising their profile to address the urgent, and ever increasing humanitarian needs that confront them.

Due to the present uncertainty surrounding Yugoslavia's political structure, which is naturally reflected in the Yugoslav Red Cross, the decision was made to start a pilot communications development project with the Serbian Red Cross (Serbian RCA). Communications development will be part of the organizational development underway in the Serbian RCA. During the reporting period a close working relationship was established with the Serbian RC's Information Officer, a communications strategy was discussed and drafted, a plan of action was worked upon, and a Serbian RCA newsletter concept put together.

Other activity in the reporting period included the production of news and feature stories for Federation print and electronic media, and material for media work. Main issues covered related to:

- ◆poor nutrition among Central Europe's children and elderly (see Hunger Day, under Objective 4)
- ◆challenges and key issues emerging from October's Partnership Meeting in Warsaw, among them migration, HIV/AIDS, and floods
- ◆Central Europe's summer and autumn floods and storms, particularly those affecting the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, and Albania
- ◆the plight of the Roma
- ◆social welfare activity.

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

The summer issue of *The Bridge*, the region's quarterly publication that facilitates knowledge sharing, best practice sharing, the definition of issues, self-esteem building, and the promotion of humanitarian values, advocacy and regional thinking and action, was prepared and published. It was devoted to the European Conference in Berlin, its outcomes and plans of action, and what they mean for National Societies. Because of the pan-European nature of the conference, the publication did not limit itself to Central Europe. The coverage included major contributions from the French, British, Russian, German and Tajik National Societies.

Besides an English-language edition, *The Bridge* summer and autumn editions again appeared in a Hungarian version and in Polish. Other language editions were being discussed, and the funding was being finalized. *The Bridge* will continue to appear regularly in Hungarian and Polish, and a Bulgarian edition is planned. Other countries have also expressed interest in own-language versions and further funding will be sought. Sustainable sponsorship is one possible avenue being looked into.

Work continued on the Regional Delegation's web site which was regularly updated and now carries, among other things, an electronic version of *The Bridge*. The site - www.ifrccee.org - reflects a growing information flow from National Societies in the region, and exceptional cooperation has been enjoyed with the Polish, Bulgarian and Romanian National Societies. The regional site helped promote the launch of a dynamic new Polish Red Cross site - see www.pck.org.pl - and provides links to all National Society sites in the region.

The Federation's Europe Department wishes *The Bridge* to become pan-European, and sustainable funding to allow this to occur in 2003 is being looked for. A Russian-language edition would be one of the first consequences.

The Regional Delegation's web site was regularly updated.

Objective 3: To establish information emergency teams formed by Federation and National Society communications personnel.

A series of workshops will occur within the Disaster Preparedness programme, and a module is under development. Time constraints due to preoccupation with the regional floods necessarily delayed a first workshop.

Objective 4: Advocacy and communications guidance for National Society, country delegation and regional delegation programmes.

The Communications Unit provided support and follow-up for the May 8 launch of the global campaign against stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS. National Societies in the region were extremely active (see stories “Aids truth silences music festival”, “Media support for anti-stigma campaign”, and “Prejudice drives HIV victims underground” in the news archive of the regional web site).

In partnership with the Disaster Preparedness programme, the Communications Unit planned a regional launch of the *World Disasters Report* in Sarajevo, hosted by the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the country’s Ministry of European Integration. Based on a chapter produced by the RD, the launch was accompanied by a seminar on *Reducing earthquake risk in urban Europe*. The Albanian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian, Slovenian, Swiss and American Red Cross attended, along with the ICRC and representatives of the Federal Ministry of Defence, Federal and Entity Civil Protection Bureaus, the Federal Institute of Meteorology, the Republika Srpska Institute for Meteorology and Seismology, the Federal Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communications, and Macedonian’s Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology. The Hungarian Red Cross launched the report nationally in Budapest.

Both launches were extensively covered by television, radio and print media, and brought major profile for the hosting National Societies. A regional launch of the *World Disasters Report*, and supporting seminar, will now be an annual event in a different country each year. In 2003, decision was made to organize the launch in Croatia (Zagreb).

On World Food Day (October 16), a campaign carried out by Red Cross Youth in eight countries warned that undernourishment among Central Europe’s poor and socially vulnerable is symptomatic of a widening gap between rich and poor. Evidence collected from across the region pointed to the growing inability of the poor to feed themselves properly, and in Poland alone 2 million children were shown to be affected.

The Polish Red Cross has used World Food Day - known as Hunger Day in some countries - to raise funds and public awareness for the problem since 1999. It has financed school meal programmes and, with media support, driven home the seriousness of social deprivation. In 2001, with the support of the Regional Delegation Communications Unit, Hunger Day was spread to three other countries. In 2002 the campaign involved Albania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The role of the Communications Unit was to mobilize/facilitate research by the Youth themselves, compile the results into a regional information kit, and provide guidance for use in each country with media, public and donors. Red Cross profile was enormous. Some countries ran a one-week campaign leading up to October 16. Poland ran a one-month one. Red Cross visibility in streets and marketplaces was accompanied by extended TV, radio and newspaper coverage. Hunger Day was present in school programmes, with events and discussion classes. Priests spoke of it at Mass the previous Sunday.

Money was raised for nutritional programmes from school meals to soup kitchens. But human resource was another consideration. The high visibility of Red Cross Youth as a positive and dynamic force for change in society will hopefully assist in the recruitment of more volunteers.

The Communications and Humanitarian Values programmes are currently firmly on course, and obstacles created by poor funding have been overcome. Resources, however, continue to be a major challenge and more are needed if the present pace of progress is to be maintained. Positive response to the 2003-2004 appeal will be critical to continue the important work started by the Unit.

Health and Care

There was a change in the post of regional Health and Care delegate, with the previous delegate leaving the post in June and the new delegate arriving at the beginning of August. Meanwhile, the activities of Health and Care programme were looked after by the part-time administrative assistant. The “mapping document” was updated and almost completed by the assistant, but still information from Romanian RCA and Czech RCA was missing.

In August the previous Health and Care delegate briefed the new delegate and a proper handover could be organized for two weeks. This time was very much appreciated by both of them as it gave an opportunity to discuss and hand-over the ongoing programme activities, financial issues and further plans (Appeal process 2003-2004). The new Health and Care delegate made the first contacts with the National Societies in the region by introducing herself via e-mail and by visiting Hungarian RCA. The first contacts were also made during the European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (ERNA) meeting in Armenia. The National Societies have expressed warm welcomes.

Objective 1 To assist National Societies in drawing up strategies for work with health and care

VI European Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference

The VI European Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference was held and attended. The conference came with a Plan of Action for Health and Care in the Community which can be found on the Federation web site www.ifrc.org. For the regional Health and Care programme the implications of this Plan of Action are the following:

1. *Development of Harm Reduction programmes for injecting drug users.* In order to assist National Societies to develop activities in this field, a Harm Reduction workshop was held in conjunction with the 6th ERNA meeting (later this year). Two meetings were held with the Croatian RCA expert on the issue, as well as with the ERNA secretariat co-ordinator. The agenda and schedule for the meeting and the workshop were finalized in August.
2. *Tuberculosis control.* The operational guidelines that are being developed were discussed at the conference and input was given. The process will continue and once the guidelines are finalised it shall be seen how the regional Health and Care programme can assist the NS's in the development of TB control programmes where relevant.
3. *ERNA.* The ERNA network was from the initiation called “the European Red Cross / Red Crescent network for HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases. At the conference it was agreed that networking around tuberculosis control programmes would be done within the frame of ERNA considering the close links between HIV/AIDS and TB. The European NS's also committed to strengthening the network in order to increase knowledge sharing and co-ordinated action. National Societies that had not previously been active in the network committed to participate and support the network capacity building activities financially. The Regional Health and Care programme will continue to provide support to the well functioning of the ERNA network.
4. *Existing networks and Reference centres on Psychological Support and First Aid Education.* The conference reconfirmed the commitment of the European National Societies to networking around these two themes. The regional Health and Care programme has established good collaboration with the Reference centre for Psychological support and was supported with two trainers when organising the first regional workshop on Psychological support (see below). The roles and responsibilities between the Reference centre for First Aid Education and the regional Health and Care programme need to be further discussed (this has not been achieved due to time constraints).

Regional Strategy on Social Welfare

Regional Strategy on Social Welfare has been delayed due to the workload of the previous regional Health and Care delegate. It has been planned to hire a consultant to complete a review of current National Society Social Welfare programmes. The Terms of Reference for this task were developed in August and revised after discussions with the senior officer for Social Welfare at the Federation Secretariat. The improved financial situation of the programme allowed contact to be made with the representative of Bulgarian RCA, Ms. Eva Milusheva, (the specialist in Social Welfare), to complete the review. To date, there has not been any response. Ms. Eva Milusheva participated in the 30th International Conference on Social Welfare in Rotterdam, the Netherlands June 2002. Her report from the conference was very informative and is available upon request.

South Eastern Europe (SEE) Conference on HIV/AIDS - implementing the Global Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS - Bucharest, Romania (June 2002).

The Federation was represented by the Senior Officer for Health in Geneva, Dr. Heinasmaki, as well as by Dr. Zovko from the Croatian Red Cross who represented ERNA. A complete report from this meeting is available upon request from Dr. Heinasmaki, at the Federation Secretariat, as well as for the Global Fund satellite meeting which was also attended.

A four page declaration was processed and endorsed with the main points being:

- ✓ Young people should be at the centre of the response to HIV
- ✓ Effective response needs stronger leadership by governments complemented by civil society including those people living with HIV/AIDS
- ✓ Prevention of HIV in youth and vulnerable groups (e.g. IDU, sex workers and men having sex with men) remains a mainstay of response
- ✓ Care, support and treatment are fundamental elements (accelerated access to ARV mentioned).
- ✓ Promoting human rights e.g. addressing any existing legal barrier such as criminalisation of needle exchange or homosexuality is essential to reduce vulnerability
- ✓ The vulnerable (especially youth, IDUs and women and girls) will be given priority in the response
- ✓ Improved research and data collection (surveillance) is crucial
- ✓ Increased collaboration and networking encouraged

A pre-conference meeting was organised for donors and partners to screen expectations from the conference. The main partners in SEE are UNAIDS, UNDP, USAID, UNICEF, IOM, World Bank, Italian Ministry of Health, CIDA and SIDA. The most critical roles for donors/ partners in HIV work were discussed, and long term funding and good co-ordination came out as the most important ones. The existing activities were mapped: a lot is done in prevention and advocacy, less in treatment and care - this probably reflecting the low HIV prevalence and generally good access to ART in SEE.

Health retreat

The following is an update on the implementation of the recommendations/ action points relevant for this region from the Health Retreat.

The Global Network for People living with HIV/AIDS translated the training manual Positive Development into Russian. They have for some time now been looking to the Federation for financial assistance for the printing of 5000 copies of this manual. During the quarter several contacts with PNS were taken in order to find funding for this project.

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

The VI European Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference in Berlin provided a Plan of Action for health issues in Europe. It was agreed that Tuberculosis (TB) should be recognized as a global health priority which requires long-term commitments. Development of strategies and plans of action for integration of National Societies' TB and HIV/AIDS programs need co-ordination and follow-up by the regional delegation. It was agreed in the European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (ERNA) that TB will be included in the Terms of Reference of ERNA.

HIV/AIDS

Administrative support was provided to the ERNA secretariat. Support was given to the network coordinator in finalizing the agenda for the 6th ERNA meeting and the workshop held in Yerevan, Armenia on the 22nd - 25th September 2002. Ten National Societies (except Czech RCA, Hungarian RCA, Macedonian RCA, Romanian RCA, Slovenian RCA), from the region of Central Europe were present as Yugoslavian RCA was accepted as a new member. The theme on the workshop, Reduction of Drug Related Harms, was introduced by experts from Federation Secretariat, Villa Maraini in Italy and National Societies. The main aim of this workshop was to gain additional knowledge about Harm Reduction, its methods, recent research and practical approaches. The discussions pointed out the importance of Harm Reduction as a part of National Societies' activities in order to promote the health and well-being in the communities of drug addicts and their next of kin.

The regional delegation will provide assistance in updating the ERNA web site. The minutes and the presentations will be available on the regional web site.

Psychological Support and Blood Donor Recruitment

The workshop on Psychological Support was held in Budapest, hosted by the Hungarian Red Cross on the 14th to 18th May 2002. Eleven National Societies from the region participated in the workshop. The follow-up seminar is to be held in November 2002 in Budapest.

The follow-up to the workshop Blood Donor Recruitment, held in Zagreb on the 28th - 30th April 2002, is to be provided by the Slovenian RCA through the Blood Donor Task Force on the 25th November 2002 in Ljubljana. The regional delegations' contacts with the Senior Officer at Federation Secretariat have been regular.

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

The European First Aid Day on the 14 September was actively adopted by the National Societies in the region. The theme of the day was Road Safety. The regional Communication Unit received information from the National Societies and the material and reports are available upon request from the Budapest Regional delegation. The material is also available on the Federation web site <http://www.ifrc.org>.

The plans for the World AIDS Day (1st December) were successfully implemented in the region. The National Societies have received the material from the Federation Secretariat. The regional Communication Unit has been actively supporting and together with the Health and Care programme have visited a few National Societies and observe the campaigns. The articles and material of the campaigns will soon be available on the regional website.

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 Bulgarian Red Cross is very active in implementing HIV/AIDS projects; "SOS AIDS" and translation of the manual "Action with Youth". Reports and the material are available upon request. The Bulgarian Red Cross and Polish Red Cross have a joint Youth Peer Education project, which started in November 2002.

The Lithuanian Red Cross submitted an improved proposal, based on comments made by the previous regional Health and Care delegate. The proposal "Participation of Volunteers in the Home Care of Lonely, Old and Socially Vulnerable People" was sent to the Desk Officer in Geneva in order to seek funding resources. The proposal has also been introduced to the PNS's in the Partnership meeting in Warsaw.

Estonia has made the application of national HIV/AIDS prevention programme for Global Fund as the Estonian Red Cross is part of the Country Co-ordination Mechanism (CCM). The funding given by the regional programme for translation and printing of the manual "Action with Youth" was agreed earlier this year. The process of receiving bids has not been completed by the Estonian Red Cross.

Support will be given to Romanian Red Cross to print brochures "Passport for walking through life without AIDS". The process of receiving reports and material is still underway.

Support has been given to four workshops for Blood Donor animators of the Croatian Red Cross. One from the four workshops was completed in April 2002, in Zagreb. The other three workshops are still to be carried out.

Earmarked funds for HIV/AIDS activities in the Balkan countries were received from the Norwegian Red Cross during this quarter.

Organizational Development

A resource development consultant from the Finnish Red Cross joined the OD team for three months to help the Bosnia and Herzegovina Red Cross Society to start the society's own income generation, and to support the Latvian and the Slovenian Red Cross societies to continue their efforts in local fundraising activities. The aim is to test the effectiveness of this kind of short-term consultancies in the development processes.

The delegation continued its support to Latvian and Estonian Red Cross societies in their financial systems development. A consultant (previous Finance Development Delegate in 2000-2001) from the Icelandic Red Cross visited Estonia and Latvia in September and supported the national societies efforts in developing and restructuring their financial systems aiming at reinforcing their accounting and financial reporting skills and systems. Follow-up visits will be provided by the delegation.

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.

The Participatory Community Development (PCD) programme continues in five countries in the Region. In Bulgaria and Macedonia the branches are finishing the first part of the PCD, with all communities having finished the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA). Although the summer slowed down the process, in Yugoslavia, Hungary and Poland communities facilitated some PRA training. The summer proved the need for people to plan their time more effectively and follow the usual seasonal activities of people and the RCA as well, like summer camps, holidays or seasonal jobs like harvesting.

The PCD coordinator provided one additional PRA training facilitation and a Large Group Workshop facilitation. The donor allowed the postponement of the deadline for the programme in FRY and Poland until the end of April 2003.

Hungary

The social coordinator took over the PCD programme as an additional task within her job and this change had an important impact as it gave a new dynamic for the implementation of the PCD in Hungary.

Hungarian RCA managed to seek additional funds for the replication of the programme in a new village. Through the British Embassy, a grant was received to implement PCD in a neighboring village to one of the already participating villages. It shows how much Hungarian RCA took ownership of this program and develop/initiate fundraising initiative, approaching local donors and selling their programmes. However, it should not be forgotten that the Hungarian RCA has one year head start on other NS participants.

Altogether in Hungary the PCD is active in ten communities. In Fugod the PCD team is continuing the planned healthy life style education programme on their own, in the renovated community center. In the other ten communities the implementation period should finish in December 2002.

As was recognized, the strong involvement of stakeholders had a great influence on the process. Some of the branches, notably in two communities had to wait until the local elections. The existing leaders were not ready for any decision and the communities had to wait for their support.

Macedonia

Macedonia is one of the five countries where the branches are extremely grateful for PCD implementation. People are enthusiastic and by September all three branches had completed their micro project concept.

The Macedonian PCD coordinator was a participant in the Large Group Workshop and also attended the Project Planning Process Training, both held in Budapest. This coordinator will then be in position to facilitate the project planning process within PCD.

Additionally a Training of Trainers (ToT) was carried out for PCD team members and some other RCA branch employees could participate as well. The ToT was one occasion for the Macedonian RCA headquarters to join the programme. The ToT was facilitated by an external consultant of Ost-West Institute from Germany. Unfortunately, in Macedonia the ownership is yet taken by the NS. One of the reason being the recruitment of the PCD coordinator, who is an employee of the Federation country delegation and not a NS staff. However, within the Federation country exit strategy, this has been taken into consideration and the hand-over of the programme will be worked out in an appropriate and pragmatic way, considering the NS capacity and resources.

The state elections slowed down the process having a huge impact on the Future Search Conference, which was postponed until a more stable time, although the PCD team in Kocani started the preparation in September.

Bulgaria

In Bulgaria two of the three branches are implementing the PCD according to the plan. The programme approach is new for the National Society. The regional PCD coordinator facilitated a Large Group Workshop

in Sliven, where the local media appeared. The meeting was successful, the community and the local RCA as well as the Bulgarian PCD coordinator realized how issues could be discussed, solved within a large group using good methods and facilitation techniques.

Training of Trainers was carried out in Bulgaria as well with participants from RCA and different stakeholder groups claimed to have gained knowledge and a better understanding of the community-based programme approach. The Bulgarian PCD coordinator used his skills in Project Cycle Management (training provided through the Regional Delegation) to support the branches. In Sliven the PCD micro project was further developed to integrate another project involving local Roma people. The Belgian Red Cross is supporting through a bilateral project a school programme. In close collaboration with this project, it was decided that the PCD micro project will target the school and children as well.

After the Training of Trainers the Bulgarian PCD coordinator had an opportunity to CO-facilitate the PRA in Poland.

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The first PRA training was facilitated in Sabac in the second quarter, and followed that as the last step of PRA a Large Group Workshop was facilitated by the Macedonian PCD co-ordinator. The regional PCD coordinator visited and observed events, which ensured the idea of networking was present. The community could work more easily in their own language. A group of PCD facilitators is now established and will be reinforced in the future.

Poland

In Poland the first PRA training was a CO-facilitation of the regional PCD coordinator and the Bulgarian PCD co-ordinator. It was in the third week of June. It was agreed at that time that two branches interested in developing PCD will also attend this training.

Following several staffing issues, the PCD coordinator was changed and a Polish RCA newly employed person took over from September. With the new skills and attitude that this change has brought, high hopes for the programme are expected.

Albania

The Albanian RCA will start the PCD implementation soon with the support of Spanish RCA most probably. They already started the preparation, translation of training materials.

Kosovo

The country delegation in Kosovo will have an important role in PCD implementation. The regional delegation agreed that the Macedonian PCD coordinator will facilitate the process. Despite existing tensions between the Albanians and Macedonians, the preparation work has already started, and will continue to be supported by the regional PCD co-ordinator.

Regional Delegation

The regional PCD coordinator, thanks to the establishment of the network and the effectiveness of its PCD coordinator could delegate some of its training tasks. It has allowed development of skills for the coordinators but it also meant more time available for the regional coordinator to focus on the programme development, development of appropriate tools and the PCD concept. A pilot PCD programme CD was developed which targets the RCA family (beneficiaries, donors). The planning of next year was done, through the appeal process. The regional PCD coordinator tried to support regional participation within the planning process through a continuous involvement of the country PCD coordinators. Some activities of the next year programme are based on PCD country coordinators' suggestion.

It also became obvious that a programme review was necessary and would be helpful to strengthen the PCD approach in the region. It was then decided to stop the expansion of the PCD programmes within the region and to focused on the lessons learned from the five countries where PCD was implemented during the last 3 years.

The regional PCD coordinator in close cooperation with the Head of Planning and Reporting Unit prepared Terms of Reference for an evaluation. The evaluation was carried late September-early October and proved to be useful. The report will be available by mid December and will be shared with our main Donors

Based on the lessons from the Tots in Macedonia and Bulgaria, it was decided that the coordinators should have a common, basic Tot in Budapest, then organize sessions for their PCD team members in their own language.

Most of the planned objectives were achieved, except the Future Search Conferences. Strong PCD coordinator network is now in place. A PCD web-page has been created on the Central Europe Website and its development continues in close collaboration with the Communication Unit.

The Future Search Conferences seems to be a too heavy process at this stage of the programme. Both, Bulgarian and Macedonian coordinators suggested to postpone the programme.

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

One of the best known events throughout the region is the "Krajenka Song Festival", organised by Polish Red Cross youth. It is a brilliant way of promoting humanitarian values and cooperation between countries. The programme showed its support to this kind of activity by assuring the prize for the best Red Cross song.

As a result of the Common Statement, youth sections are now inviting each other to various activities, which are providing them with an excellent opportunity to share experiences, knowledge, approaches and to learn from each other while working. Last year more than 90 people took part and this year an even higher number of exchanges will take place. In the summer one of the biggest international camps took place in Montenegro, organised by Yugoslav Red Cross in cooperation with International Federation's country delegation, based in Belgrade.

After all the introductions to the regional awareness campaign "Hunger day" carried out in the second week of October this year in close collaboration with Regional Communications Unit, three days were dedicated to the planning of this campaign at the Advanced Training Course and Workshop, held in August at Balaton lake, Hungary. In this three days people were actively sharing lessons learned and best practices among those who are running campaign already and the ones who will be implementing it for the first time. Taking part in the campaign was an additional requirement added in order to participate in the training. Ten countries applied, being devoted to raising the public awareness concerning hunger, malnutrition and all side affect. The respective National Societies' youth representatives, had to prepare an exact action plan concerning the activities, being later carried out in accordance to "Hunger day."

Beside all established communication services, such as website www.ifrccee.org/youth and different e-mail groups being regularly updated and maintained, one more e-mail group was established for the participants of this years' Advanced Training Course. Therefore a new platform of information, knowledge and experiences exchange has been created and is actively used, mainly discussing the implementation of the awareness campaign mentioned above.

Besides utilising the knowledge and the skills gained at the training, participants were immediately given a chance to "test" this knowledge in practice. National Societies, as a result gained a person, who, when coming home will act as a national campaign co-ordinator.

Additionally, one day during this workshop was dedicated to the work and collaboration with media (preparation of good media release to be used for upcoming campaign). One of the main challenge identified by the participants in the campaign is how to work better with media and how to strengthen/build new relations, how to raise public awareness and promote Red Cross actions. As this initiative is clearly improving the image of the Movement, this sort of a training was more than welcomed.

All developed tools are available through the youth website, www.ifrccee.org/youth, such as CAPI Youth 1 and 2 (Customised Assessment and Performance Indicators). The Regional Youth Officer has strongly encouraged the use of this tools and methods by youth sections in the development of their activities, and therefore contributed in this way to the strengthening National Societies capacities.

Project Planing Process (PPP) training was provided in August during the Advance Training Course. - mixture of lectures, followed by practice work immediately putting the theory in practice. PPP provides another planning tool for the trainees to plan their activities in a better way, as well as giving to National Societies one more person trained in skill specific areas. A nice example of utilising gained knowledge and disseminating it was when youth representatives organised a PPP training in their own country for participants taking part at annual course.

The main events during the last quarter were the regional awareness campaign, firstly Hunger day campaign, which has been implemented in ten countries and the AIDS/HIV campaign being launched on 1st of December.

Once again youth is taking a leading role in the region in putting attention on the topics that are still a sort of taboo in many societies in this part of Europe.

For additional information, please refer to the Central Regional website, where a lot of material, stories were posted and specific youth activities reported

Regional Cooperation w

Objective 1: To contribute to the production of a Regional Assistance Strategy

Objective 2: To develop together with those national societies concerned “the second generation” of Country Assistance strategy in Central Europe

Work on the Regional Assistance Strategy (RAS) was put on hold following the Partnership Meeting in 2001 and in response to National Societies wishes. The region, as was initially grouped when the regional delegation was established in 1992, has been questioned as the most appropriate grouping given current political, economic and social developments. New models working on a sub-regional basis are being explored building on successes such as in the Baltic sub-region supported by the Nordic-Baltic Workplan. With EU enlargement, the previous distinction between east and western European PNS / ONS is irrelevant and new models of cooperation and partnership are emerging.

The work of the Secretariat in developing the Europe Implementation Plan and the impact this has on the function and role of the regional delegation in Budapest have also led to a revisiting of the issue of RAS and Cooperation Agreement Strategy (CAS) in the region. However the objective” to build the commitment of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement to a shared strategy that will strengthen the impact of national societies work” remains valid and will be carried out through specific activities. This “new CAS generation” is seen to be a more effective co-ordination and resource mobilization tool.

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

The reinforcement of regional exchange, cooperation and networking has continued to a key task of the regional delegation. Many achievements in this respects were implemented through the core programmes, particularly in Health (ERNA), European Network for people leaving with HIV/AIDS (ENP+), European First Aid Network (Brussels), European Reference Centre for Psychological Support, South Eastern Europe (Conference on HIV/AIDS) Population Movement (PRECE), Stability Pact for the Balkans Region, IOM, UNHCR) , DP (Stability Pact Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI), Communications (Media Network) and Youth (Europe Co-ordination Committee (EEC) European Youth Network).

Technical networks (Youth sections, PCD co-ordinators, DM co-ordinators, Population Movement Co-ordinators) continue to be strengthened and have been very active during the period. These strong networks have contributed to the establishment of good relations, increased cooperation between national Societies and a pleasant working atmosphere in the region. The technical cooperation in all areas of each regional program is promoted in various regional workshops, exchange of experience, networks (Youth, DM, PCD, Communication, Health). Resources available in the region are increasingly been used in the process of developing these regional networks.

The Regional Delegation is working on developing more interactions between these networks to ensure better cooperation as well as a more effective co-ordination of the regional activities. This regional integrated approach has already been successful in the organisation of regional campaigns (Health, Youth, Communication) and will continue to be further strengthened (Health, DP, Youth, Communication).

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 needs to share knowledge and experiences.

The VIth European Red Cross & Red Crescent Conference held 14-18 April 2002 in Berlin, set Health and Migration as the two priority issues for all 52 European National Societies in the coming four years. In Health, the focus is on the prevention of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. The European Conference also provided a good opportunity to discuss and share ideas with the leadership of the Central Europe National Societies on cooperation and the future priorities for support of the Regional Delegation to the National Societies

Another major event was a **regional launch of the *World Disasters Report*** in Sarajevo, hosted by the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the country's Ministry of European Integration. The media coverage was excellent both within and outside the country and provided a good visibility to the RCA Society of Bosnia & Herzegovina..

The Hungarian Red Cross launched the report nationally in Budapest. The launch was extensively covered by television, radio and print media, and brought major profile for the hosting National Society.

The main event of the last quarter was the Partnership Meeting organized and hosted for the first time by one of the Central Europe National Society (Polish Red Cross). This initiative was proposed by the Regional Delegation aiming at strongly involve national societies in the whole process but also to let these national societies taking more ownership of this meeting. This proposal was very well accepted by the Central Europe NS, who were particularly proactive in the selection of themes to be discussed and working groups to be organized. The meeting was held on 4-5 October in Warsaw, Poland. Thirteen national societies from the region and eleven from donor countries, ICRC, Red Cross Brussels Office, ERNA, and all the country delegations and offices in the region participated in the meeting. The main topics of the meeting were the Federation's strategy in the region, the EU enlargement process, follow-up to the Berlin Conference, follow-up to the floods, migration, volunteering, resource development and youth. Alongside the programme of workshops there was a "market stall" promoting the activities and the projects of the NSs and giving a comprehensive picture about the programmes in the region. Also mutual cooperation between neighboring national societies was promoted, with the successful example of the Lithuanian Red Cross/ Polish Red Cross being introduced at the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, Slovak RCA offered to host and to organize the 2003 Partnership Meeting in Bratislava. The offer was accepted by the national societies and it was decided that the Partnership will be organized in June 2003.

Objective 5: to support the preparation for national Society to enter the EU and to benefit from its co-operation

The last six months saw continuation of progress in the plans for the integration of the accession states into an enlarged European Union. This and the wider integration of the Europe region was a key issue for the Federation at its conference of RCA/RCA Societies held in Berlin in April. The 15 European Union (EU) member National Societies and the Federation Secretariat have set up a European Think Tank, which had its first meeting in June in Brussels. The representatives of the National Societies of Hungary, Lithuania and Poland are active member of the group from the Central Europe region. The aim of the Think Tank is to recommend the best possible RCA structure in an enlarged EU, and to look at the future evolving roles of the EU Office, Budapest Regional Delegation and the Europe Department of the Secretariat.

A EU enlargement officer has been recruited at the Regional Delegation in November and is working very closely together with the EU RCA office based in Brussels. A mapping of the 8 Central Europe National Societies was completed by the end of the year and an induction course to be organized during the first quarter 2003 is under preparation.

Co-ordination and Management w

The Europe Department/delegations are redefining their presence in Central Europe and their working methods towards NSs. This was discussed at the Europe region's conference in Berlin and is being taken forward by a think tank, comprising Secretariat and NS members, to decide the future strategy and framework for the whole region. In the meantime, the delegations have continued their usual support to the core programmes with the NSB.

However the role of the delegation (regional and country delegation) is also changing in relation to the NSs themselves. A move towards a more facilitative role foreseen in the "serving leader" concept has been initiated, the implementation role remaining more firmly with the NS themselves. The strained funding situation has precipitated this trend and has helped to develop stronger contacts with locally present partners and to result in a better local fund-raising strategy. In future, more effort will go into capacity building, especially in the areas of programme management and local resource mobilisation to strengthen long term efficiency and sustainability.

The process of regionalization has continued, with the Federation reducing its country presence in the region and consolidating its regional services and support to National Societies. At the same time, the reshaping of the delegation saw during the last quarter the closing of the Regional Finance Unit, the Regional Logistic Unit, the Regional Communication Unit and the Regional Planning and Reporting Unit. These services are to be provided from the Regional Units based in Ankara, Turkey.

Discussions are ongoing for the future location of the Regional Communication Unit, and the Regional Logistic Unit.

Regional Human Resource Programme

During the first two years following the 1999 regional BTC, few problems were experienced in finding funding for delegate missions for suitable candidates from the regional roster. Since the beginning of 2002, only one person from the regional roster has departed on a mission. National Societies who were traditionally able to fund regional recruits have had their funding sources dramatically cut - in part due to changes in national government and consequently in overseas aid and development policy direction. The percentages the programme expects to achieve in terms of the numbers of candidates departing on mission is therefore being revised to more realistic levels. Also, in order to reflect candidates from the region who have attended BTCs run by Participating National Societies (PNS) and who are also departing on mission, the percentages will be for the regional roster as a whole rather than separately for the two regional BTCs held to date. In 2002 it is therefore expected that 20% of candidates on the regional roster will have completed a first mission, rising to 40% in by the end of 2003.

There are no plans to hold a future regional BTC, unless the funding situation dramatically improves for regional recruits. Original plans to hold a third regional BTC in 2003 have therefore been put on hold. Candidates from the region may still be put forward for PNS-run BTC training, and applications will be channeled via the Geneva-based BTC coordinator.

As reported in the previous report, the human resource development needs in the region vary greatly from National Society to National Society, depending on individual NS levels of development and staffing. The regional HR programme will work closely with the regional OD coordinator, once he / she has been recruited in how best to address these needs.

From experience, it is evident that the most appropriate forum for addressing National Society human resource issues is on an individual, case by case basis, sensitive to the overall development directions taken by individual National Societies. The human resource and training unit at the Regional Delegation has been responding to human resource issues raised by National Societies, Federation country delegations and Federation field offices in this way, providing advice, examples of best practice, a coaching function, and a coordinating link with the HR function at the Secretariat in Geneva.

Support to the Federation country delegations and offices in particular has developed following the change in management reporting lines in May 2002, with the Delegation in Belgrade, and Federation offices in Sarajevo and Kosovo now reporting directly to the RD in Budapest. Human resource issues, including Performance Development Review (PDR), delegate planning and local staffing have been discussed with HoDs and Heads of office. Terms of Reference have also been developed to reflect the implications of the new reporting lines for the HR and Training Unit in Budapest and to set out the services which can be expected of the Unit. These include coordination of requests for delegates, interviewing of delegate candidates, briefing and debriefing of new staff. The Terms of Reference are currently in Geneva for approval.

During the second half of the year, the HR and Training Unit has also taken over responsibility for administration issues following the departure of the office manager, putting increased time and work pressures on the unit. A new administration and welcome service officer was recruited.

The concept of the combined Human Resource and Training Unit has been developed. There has been a strong emphasis on the training component due to the HR and Training Coordinator's involvement in the global Project Planning Process (PPP) initiative as a facilitator. Week long courses in PPP have been held for the Delegation in FR Yugoslavia, the Federation office in Kosovo, and co-facilitation has been provided for a global course in Geneva. Four additional PPP courses were conducted for regional DPP programme managers, the ERNA network, the regional youth programme and a general regional course. There are also plans to support the communications unit at the RD with a training of trainers for NS communications staff in the region. The emphasis on training, combined with the developing HR function at the RD, means that the unit

will have to look at staffing levels in order to maintain an efficient service for the rest of the year. The current staffing of one full time coordinator will not be sufficient and a part time assistant will be needed.

- Planning and Reporting Unit

Beside the heavy Appeal process (2003-2004, regional Appeal and 4 country Appeals) and the Reporting exercise, the Planning and Reporting Unit received some allocation from the Capacity Building funds and thanks to other income made available, could focus on building the capacity of planning/reporting in the national societies in Central Europe. A global project was developed and hopefully its model will be replicated elsewhere in other regions./continents.

This Central Europe global project is covering the 15 National Societies and is co-funded by the Federation Capacity Building Funds (covering the costs for 6 NS in the Balkans and in Bulgaria), by the Nordic Baltic Plans (3 Baltic NS) and for the remaining 6 NS , it is planned to use the funds budgeted in the Emergency Appeals for the capacity building components (Hungary/Romania floods 2001, Poland Floods 2001, Central Europe Floods 2002).

National Societies in Central Europe are faced with a wide range of challenges. One of these is to improve the quality and timeliness of their appeals and reports. By building these skills at the branch level, a large step towards accomplishing this goal will have been taken.

Decreasing funding -and increasing competition for those funds- is a hard reality for many of the national societies in Central Europe. In addition, donor national societies, governments, and the public are looking for more comprehensive and detailed information about the programmes they choose to support. More than ever before, accurate, timely and comprehensive appeals and reports are essential. During a disaster or emergency there is no time to build these capacities. It must be done in a systematic and coherent way during periods of calm, so that when or if disaster does strike, things can run much more smoothly and efficiently.

The Central Europe Region is also particularly prone to natural disasters. Floods now occur on almost a yearly basis, while other crises such as heavy snowfalls and earthquakes add to the equation. While there is still donor interest in assisting during these occurrences, once again the delays and difficulties faced in obtaining timely and detailed information has led to frustrations. The national societies themselves, increasingly aware of the important role that appeal writing and reporting plays, have begun to ask for specific guidelines, information and training in this area. It is a capacity that urgently needs to be built. Developing the national societies capacity in reporting has become crucial. **It is a skill that affects all areas of their operations, and one which also influences their ability to generate support from partner national societies (PNS).**

The following proposal is aimed at building the appeal and reporting capacities of national societies in the region. It aims to reinforce branch capacities in providing accurate information and reports. It involves:

- ◆ Presenting the appeal process in order for the national societies to develop a comprehensive understanding of the tools that are available in times of emergency.
- ◆ Provide a set of translated documents (see sidebar box) .
- ◆ Ensure proper training at headquarters and branch level, in close collaboration with the disaster management departments of the national societies concerned.

The overall objective is to have national societies themselves take full ownership of the training process at branch level. In the end, branch level staff will be well versed and knowledgeable about the entire process, and will also be able to pass on this knowledge to new members and volunteers. The hoped for result is clear: National Societies possessing the capacity to write better, more accurate appeals and reports that satisfy donor demands.

Reporting as a monitoring and fund-raising tool and making programmes accountable is a direct programme management skill. Since reporting depends greatly on information from branches, it becomes an important branch development tool. This in turn should help build stronger relationships, aid in fund-raising, and leave the national societies in a better position to build partnerships. In the end, it is the most vulnerable who can benefit.

The goal is to build the appeal writing and reporting capacities of six national societies in the Central Europe region.

To achieve it, a complete and comprehensive appeal package will be prepared for the national societies concerned. This package would contain clear, easy to follow and approachable information about the appeal process and the subsequent reporting requirements and tools. To further make the information accessible to all, it will be translated into the languages of the national societies themselves.

The Planning and Reporting Unit will present the Appeal package in a “Training of Trainers” session, involving the Disaster Management department (from headquarters level). And the headquarters of each national society will ensure the proper follow-up training of branch level staff.

It is expected that national societies capacities will have increased their knowledge and skills with regards to the appeal process and reporting. Increased ownership and involvement of these national societies in the Appeal Process. Greater strategic planning skills, programme management skills, branch development and financial resource development will have been gained.

For further details please contact: [Penny Elghady](mailto:Penny.Elghady@ifrc.org), Phone: 41 22 730 43 19; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: Elghady@ifrc.org

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

Budapest regional						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.42/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED				22.01.2003
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				7'727'142		76.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				1'861'403		
Programme support				499'400		
Programme support RFU				177'540		
AUSTRALIAN - RC				21'478	29.11.2002	REPORTING TRAINEE DELEGATE
BRITISH - RC				18'500	25.01.2002	REGIONAL YOUTH DELEGATE
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				303'539	19.02.2002	ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH, PLANNING/REPORTING
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				250'000	07.08.2002	ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, HEALTH
BRITISH - RC		30'000	GBP	69'249	06.11.2002	ORGANISATIONAL DEV., REG. DELEGATION, BRIDGE PUBLICATION
CANADIAN - RC		1'029	CAD	1'064	27.05.2002	REGIONAL PROGRAMMES
DANISH - RC		300'000	DKK	59'310	15.08.2002	HUMANITARIAN VALUES
DANISH - RC		462'500	DKK	91'251	07.10.2002	HEALTH & CARE/HIV/AIDS
FINNISH - RC		16'819	EUR	24'874	05.02.2002	HUMANITARIAN VALUES
FINNISH - RC		96'855	EUR	141'854	13.08.2002	DELEGATE EXPENSES
GERMAN - RC		5'745	EUR	8'409	01.03.2002	EUROPEAN YOUTH MEETING
NETHERLANDS - RC		61'327	EUR	89'905	17.04.2002	BRIDGE PUBLICATION
NETHERLANDS - RC		150'000	EUR	219'900	01.11.2002	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		500'000	NOK	99'758	02.07.2002	HIV/AIDS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		500'000	NOK	997'580	02.07.2002	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		441'262	NOK	88'038	04.09.2002	BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		488'367	NOK	97'437	04.09.2002	CROATIA
SWEDISH - RC		334'000	SEK	52'805	15.04.2002	DISASTER RESPONSE. INSTITUTIONAL & RESOURCE DEV. COORDINATION & MGT
SWEDISH - GVT		750'000	SEK	119'850	20.07.2002	DR, HEALTH, REG COOP, IRD
SWEDISH - GOVT		400'000	SEK	63'600	24.09.2002	HEALTH AND CARE
SWEDISH - RC		1'038	EUR	1'524	21.10.2002	PM STUDY TRIP
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	80'700	18.10.2002	DISASTER RESPONSE
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				121'000		P66160
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				5'559'968	CHF	72.0%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			11'006		
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			47'500		
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			24'805		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			84'928		
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			11'150		
NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			59'959		
SWEDEN	DELEGATE(S)			87'063		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				316'411	CHF	4.1%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	