

# 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

## *Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*

22/11/2002

*Appeal No. 01.45/2002*

*Appeal Target 1,525,119 CHF 2002 ; 1,291,73 CHF 2003*

*Programme Update No. 3 Period covered: July-October 2002*

*Last Programme Update issued : 03/09/2002*

### *“At a Glance”*

*Appeal coverage: 91.1%*

*Related Appeals: N/A*

*Outstanding needs: Additional support is needed to carry out the social welfare activities (psycho-social support ) and the disaster response programme (procurement of hygiene parcels).*

*Update: The period August-October 2002 was mainly challenged by the political campaign for the Parliamentary elections, constitution of the new Parliament and the Government afterwards. Heavy rainfalls and unusual autumn condition also marked this period and caused many problems especially in agriculture. Red Cross regular activities continued and all planned projects were implemented. Close attention was given to the monitoring of the Appeal. Objectives and related activities were reviewed, discussions were held with UNHCR, ICRC and Plan of Action was revised accordingly.*

### **Operational Developments**

The 15 September Parliamentary elections in Macedonia were conducted largely in line with international standards for democratic elections. This first post-conflict election was an integral component of the Ohrid Framework Agreement that ended the crisis in 2001 and is perceived as a test for the return of the country in stability. As far as the results are concerned, Macedonians chose the alternative political option from the ruling one. The Constitution of the new Government was in place at the end of October.

Peace in the country, however, remains fragile. Security incidents continue and during the recent election campaign increasingly involved intra-ethnic disputes. While ethnically mixed police patrols have entered all villages in the former crisis area, their effectiveness is hampered by community mistrust and continued ethnic sensitivities. With unemployment already topping 35%, new redundancies from the closure of loss making companies and adjustments to over-employment in the public sector, social tensions are likely to result. These are the issues that will be first priorities of the new Government.

The Macedonian RC has been very heavily involved in the Appeal process 2003-2004. Ongoing programmes were reviewed. National Society plans and priorities were outlined in line with the Federation devised exit strategy and consequent capacity of the National Society.

**Disaster Response**

**Objective 1: To continue to support the 4,000 remaining refugees and host families in Macedonia.**

This category includes 3,100 remaining refugees from the Kosovo crisis. Most of them have Temporary Humanitarian Assisted Persons (THAP) status, which is extended by the Government every six months, and the current expires in March 2003. This status gives them only the right to be temporarily accommodated in Macedonia and the right to health care, but not the right to find a job and become self sufficient. This makes them vulnerable and dependant on humanitarian assistance. The Federation would like to see these people given conditions to be repatriated or if this is not possible, to see them recognised by the Government as a refugee. This status would help them to become integrated into the local community.

The new Government is willing to discuss this matter, but still, for the moment, humanitarian help is the only source of basic provisions for these people. The refugees are either housed with host families or in collective centres. The Red Cross support these people by providing hygiene items. The Hygiene parcels are distributed under the following normative:

In Collective centers	1 Person families	1 Parcel every three months
	2 to 4 Persons families	1 Parcel monthly
	5 to 9 Persons families	2 Parcels monthly
	10 and more Person families	3 Parcels monthly
In Host Families	1 Person families	1 Parcel every three months
	2 to 5 Persons families	1 Parcel monthly
	6 to 10 Persons families	2 Parcels monthly
	11 and more Person families	3 Parcels monthly

Note: In Skopje, distribution was carried with ICRC individual parcels. Each refugee received one parcel per month. Host families in Skopje have also received individual parcels. In other branches, distribution continued with family hygiene parcels.

Host families: 1 parcel every second month

Refugees in collective centres

There are 1531 refugees accommodated in three collective centres in Macedonia (Katlanovo-435, Sutka- 1072, Gazi Baba-23).

Quantitatively expressed the distributions are as follows:

<b>August</b>	524 hygienic parcels	130 baby parcels
<b>September</b>	528 hygienic parcels	135 baby parcels
<b>October</b>	526 hygienic parcels	121 baby parcels

Please note that baby parcels are distributed every month to babies up to 18 months of age.

Refugees in host families

Distributions for the 1711 refugees accommodated in host families were conducted according to the same normative as reported in the previous programme update.

<b>The Quarter at a Glance</b>	
✓	Continuing support to refugees and host families
✓	Health and psychological support to the most vulnerable individuals and groups
✓	Budgets 2002 revision
✓	Preparation of the Appeal 2003/2004 with main stress on the exit strategy

	<b>July/August</b> distribution	<b>September/October</b> distribution
<b>Refugees in host families</b>	2760 parcels	2797 hygiene parcels
<b>Host families</b>	980 hygiene parcels	818 hygiene parcels
<b>Babies up to 18 months</b>	120 baby parcels	100 baby parcels

#### UNHCR food-items support

Starting with July/ August distribution and based on the continuous complaints from refugees about the lack of variety of the food commodities, the basic food basket was changed. The new basic food basket for refugees living with host families consists of wheat flour and one box of different commodities. The new basket contains one 9 kg bag of wheat flour per person and a food parcel containing: 1 kg beans, 1 kg rice, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg pasta, 1 litre oil, 500 gr. salt, 100 gr. yeast and 250 gr. of canned fish.

The refugees living with host families have also started to receive MKD 600 cash in place of complementary food.

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>July/August</b> distribution	<b>September/ October</b> distribution
Wheat flour	29.805 kg	30.799 kg
Food parcels	3.492 boxes	3.402 boxes

While the refugees living with host families accepted and welcomed the changes in the normative for food, the refugees accommodated in Suto Orizari and Katlanovo collective centres have rejected the changes. Therefore, due to only one optional choice, they decided to continue receiving the earlier applied basic food basket and complementary food.

	<b>Normative</b> <b>per person</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>
<b>Wheat flour</b>	12 kg	13'700	13'630	13'340
<b>Oil</b>	1 lit	1'545	1'550	1'504
<b>Beans</b>	1 kg	1'750	1'600	1'100
<b>Sugar</b>	1 kg	1'555	1'600	1'450
<b>Salt</b>	0.2 kg	156	308	245

#### Internally Displaced People (IDP's)

In addition to the refugees from Kosovo crisis, according to the latest data in September there are 9,013 IDP's. They are mainly displaced in the areas near their places of origin with the relatives or host families, but also 2,187 are living in collective centres. The European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) has been financially supporting the host families of the IDP's and this project is planned to be extended until March 2003. In addition the American RC had been distributing hygiene parcels but they finished the programme with August distribution.

The Federation distributed Finnish RC donated washing powder to families throughout October mainly in Skopje, Kumanovo and Tetovo, where the majority of IDP's are displaced.

#### **Objective 2: To continue to support Macedonian families considered most vulnerable by the Macedonian Social Welfare Ministry**

The political and economic crisis has created a new category of vulnerable people. These people have some of the same basic needs as previously identified groups of vulnerable people, but also additional requirements. People look to the Red Cross as the first door to knock on in times of need. This means that in the face of such need, priorities must be identified. The regular distribution of used clothes (donation from Swedish and Finnish RC's) continues from the Macedonian Red Cross warehouse in Skopje. This warehouse is open for everyone in need if they can provide some form of recognised ID. There is still a "pride" which prevents people taking this help unless they are in desperate need.

The Red Cross was in a position to supply clothing parcels to several institutions around Macedonia. The recipients were hospitals, orphanages and people who had lost their paid employment. These kind of one off donations are gratefully received and appreciated by the beneficiaries.

**Objective 3: To maintain an emergency/contingency stock in the joint MRC and Federation warehouse**

Despite heavy rainfalls during September which caused flooding to a few houses in some villages near Debar and Kavadarci branches, contingency stock in the two warehouses, in Petrovec and in Ohrid, was not severely depleted. Maintenance will continue, supplemented by the Swedish RC donation of 1,200 blankets.

***Disaster Preparedness***

**Objective 1: To prepare the Macedonian RC to respond in a timely, effective and focused manner to any disaster in the country and in nearby countries.**

After finishing the introduction of the SPHERE project to the Macedonian RC (see programme update 2) the next step is to implement it at the branch level. The real impact from this project can only be seen after good implementation on a local level.

**Objective 2: To create DP training facilities at branches and at headquarters level to regularly train volunteers throughout the country and to mobilise them in times of disasters.**

During September and October, a pilot project for action and preparedness in case of disasters was launched. The aim of this project is to analyse the different patterns throughout Macedonia, concerning natural, social and political issues. Regions are prone to different types of disasters, adequate preparedness and response need be planned accordingly. With this project, detailed assessment for potential disasters in particular region will be made.

The project started in Veles region, which was chosen because it is in the epicentre of Macedonia, and the place with the highest level of pollution trait by environmental disasters. The project is currently at the assessment level and has been supported by a Spanish RC contribution. The next step will be preparing a detailed map with data for all places, infrastructure, citizens, hospitals, institutions, communications systems and possibilities for co-operation with responsible state institutions in case of emergency. Finally a plan of action in case of emergencies will be made. From the beginning of October, Swedish RC donation will be used as a contribution for the salaries of the DP team involved in this project.

From this successful experience, a pattern for implementation of the project in other regions will be developed.

**Objective 3: To clearly define the role of the Macedonian RC in the national DP context but also in the regional context as recommended by the Stability Pact DPPI.**

No country activities to be reported against this objective, although follow up on this objective was addressed through the seminars and workshops organised through the DP regional programme. It was done through the DP network through constant exchange of information and experiences.

***Health and Care***

**Objective 1: To continue to provide basic information to people using the facilities offered by the information centre.**

The Information Centre office has remained the first site where help can be offered. Reducing the vulnerability of the refugees, IDP's and social cases has been the main goal for the several employees. With regular activities in counselling, preventive medical care, medicines, legal advices, referring to relevant institutions or agencies the Office has become very popular among beneficiaries on the one hand and is appreciated by humanitarian community on the other.

Activities of this Office presented through figures are the following:

	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>
Interviews	721	701	616

Telephone calls	463	527	406
Psycho social support	7	7	9
Medical support	643	629	501
Other	310	401	316
Education	29	41	68

**Objective 2: To continue to support the beneficiaries with individual medical and social needs including the most vulnerable refugees, IDPs, host families and social cases with no access to medical services.**

The UNHCR funded project which is implemented by the Federation provides primary medical care for refugees in host families and collective centres. During this reporting period the project was expanded to provide assistance to refugee patients in needs of secondary and tertiary health care, and transport these patients from the collective centres to the hospitals. Part of the project is focusing on also health education, which is seen as vital to improve living conditions in Macedonia.

Specifically in this period, refugee children received vaccinations. In co-operation with the Ministry of Health, Red Cross prepared lists and organised the transport of children to the nearest institution responsible for regular immunization. All children received the vaccination.

American RC Health project was sized down to mobile medical teams that are working in Kumanovo area. During the reported period, several other projects have been developed, but approval is still pending.

**Objective 3: To increase the number of SWP trainers who will in turn provide training to the beneficiaries**

Federation medical teams provided health education on an individual base to every patient. In cases of particular diseases, special sessions were organised (hepatitis, TBC, etc.)

Medical reports from the field (from collective centres and beneficiaries accommodated at host families) are also valuable for collecting information about which diseases are most common. Afterwards all the efforts will be concentrated on prevention and protection against these diseases.

Issuing of brochures is one further step in this action. In this reporting period brochures on Hepatitis, Lice, Scabies were printed in Roma, Albanian and Macedonian language and distributed. Till the end of the year, new brochures will be developed for other most frequent diseases (hygiene, TBC and diabetes).

**Objective 4: To continue to provide psychological support to individuals.**

As mentioned in the previous update, the Information centre assisted individuals identified by ICRC field workers as needing special care and psychological support (returnees, IDP's or family members of prisoners). Several new persons, identified by ICRC were included in this psycho social support project.

German RC project in Demir Kapija institution for handicapped people is also ongoing with regular activities. A new building was recently open for social workers. A separate structure for children was created, as their needs were different from the elderly group of handicapped people. It is hoped to improve the lives of both age-groups by addressing better their needs and therefore increasing the quality of assistance provided to them.

The programme for psycho-social support to the refugees and IDP's has been ongoing for several years. Staff (medical personnel, psycho social workers, info-center staff and drivers) needs more training and tutoring to carry on their activities. This will be done by an experienced external psychologist from a clinical institution.

**Objective 5: To provide recreational activities that involve re-socialization.**

Re-socialization of refugee children is one of the goals of the Federation programmes. Children of refugees accommodated in host families will be going to public schools at the start of new school year. During this period, preparation programmes and assessment for enrolment of this pupils in regular schools, were finalised. The Federation contributed with bus tickets, the preparation of documents and UNHCR with scholarships.

## **Organisational Development**

**Objective 1: To map OD resources available in Macedonia and to promote during the mapping exercise greater understanding of the local environment by the Red Cross OD team.**

Work was completed during the first quarter. No additional activities for this period are to be reported

**Objective 2: To increase ability of the Macedonian RC to obtain short-term and long-term funding in both the headquarters and the branches.**

The Macedonian RC was closely involved in the Appeal 2003-2004 process, reviewing its programmes and outlining its priorities. This time was also used as an opportunity to develop a similar process for the other Red Cross partners operating bilaterally in the country. Programmes documents, Plans of Actions were finalised .

The Partnership Meeting held in Warsaw, attended by Macedonian RC President, the Federation's Country Representative and Senior Programme Co-ordinator was a good opportunity to present Macedonian RC planned projects and Federation Appeal.

The main priorities were to raise the issue of outstanding debt from the government, towards the Macedonian RC. This was primarily concerning funding, that according to Macedonian laws should be allocated to the Red Cross (from public events, lottery games, car registrations etc.). Due to the elections and the constitution of the new Government, this question will have to be addressed in the following months.

Funding is sought to organise a training session or seminars for improving fund-raising at the branch level. The aim of these seminars is to better inform the local community about the role and goals of the Red Cross and to develop some of the less efficient branches. This has been identified by Macedonian RC as one of their priority. Achieving this would be seen as a great success, which will raise the Macedonian RC profile on a domestic and international level and will make it a reliable National Society for obtaining local and international funding.

**Objective 3: To raise the Macedonian RC public and internal profile.**

The prompt reaction of the Macedonian RC DPP team when a few villages were flooded following the rainfalls, was very good example of how Macedonian RC image should be cultivated.

The Federation and the Macedonian RC jointly took part in a NGO fair held in Spoke at the end of October 2002. This was a good opportunity to present the Red Cross role, activities and programmes to the humanitarian international and local community, as well as to the wider public.



Red Cross stall at NGO fair

**Objective 4: To improve the Macedonian RC branch services, management and co-ordination.**

Several micro projects were implemented in different Macedonian RC branches and are mostly concentrated on the improvement of branch services and their capacity building. Among the finalised projects are reconstruction of warehouse in Kriva Palanka branch and the provision of bed sheets for IDP's in collective centres. In this period, the reconstruction of the warehouse in Tetovo and the opening of an internet club in RC Branch Karpos were major successes.

**Objective 5: To increase youth participation in the management of the Macedonian RC and empowerment to assess issues and develop programmes concerning youth vulnerability in Macedonia.**

A workshop for humanitarian values, a training of trainers session for Red Cross Youth Leaders, a training session of Red Cross Youth Leaders at Universities and Junior Red Cross Leader schools were notable highs in this period. The opening of the Youth Club at the Macedonian RC premises will be last of the Norwegian RC projects towards this objective. Issuing of Bulletin for the Youth RC is also planned in the next period.

## ***Co-ordination and Management***

The main goal during this year has been the improvement of the overall capacity of the Macedonian RC to develop sustainable programmes to meet the needs of vulnerable groups in Macedonia. This was also in conformity of the planned exit strategy, and hence the Macedonian RC long term goals and directions. Continuation of strengthening the capacity of the Macedonian RC, and assisting the national society in the core areas: disaster preparedness and relief activities; in health through the social-welfare programme have been key goals. The gradual hand over of specific responsibilities will continue according to a mutually agreed plan, with training in identified activities, continuous information-sharing and co-ordination.

### **Objective 1: To continue strengthening the capacity of the Macedonian RC, and assisting the national society in the core areas: disaster preparedness and relief activities, in health through its social welfare programme and in the organisational development programme.**

Progress on the changes to the Macedonian RC statutes has progressed according to the timetable set.

The implementation of Programme Community Development project through the support of the Regional programme continued with several activities:

- ✓ One day workshop on Project Planning Process in each local branch with instructions how to develop the project.
- ✓ Coordination on the best solution for implementation of the micro-projects (taking into consideration the needs, threats and opportunities)
- ✓ Draft of the micro-projects
- ✓ Develop the presentation of the results of the Participatory Rapid Appraisal

All the participants in the project teams are willing to develop further activities and to continue the collaboration. An excellent relationship with the local authorities and mass media exists. (more information on this programme can be found by referring to the Central Europe Programme Update 1)

### **Objective 2: To assist the Macedonian RC in securing sufficient resources for the programme implementation and their efficient management.**

During this period and according with the planned exit strategy, Federation was concentrated to obtain a proposal from Macedonian RC for the next years projects and to do mutual efforts to identify possible donations from different PNS's.

### **Objective 3: To co-ordinate and assist interested participating national societies in supporting key aspects of the national society's capacity building and improvements in management.**

Currently, the American RC is the only National Society operating in the country with their health programme.

### **Objective 4: To provide overall co-ordination and management for Federation supported programmes and operations in Macedonia.**

The Federation continued to provide administrative and logistics services to the American RC Regional Delegation in Skopje and other PNS operating bilateral in the country.

Co-ordination meetings between the Macedonian RC, ICRC and PNS's representatives were chaired by the Federation Representative biweekly.

The Head of Regional Delegation for Central Europe, visited the Macedonia Delegation and conducted meetings with Macedonian RC Secretary General, the president of the Macedonian RC, ICRC and American RC representatives. During the meetings with Macedonian RC leadership, the Federation's strategy and exit plans in this region were discussed. The strengthening of the management capacity of the National Society was the key issue. It was recommended that to invest in human resources and the focus should be put on staff training. In order to increase Macedonian RC credibility among donors, it was also recommended to concentrate on proper clarifications of several issues with PNS's, reports and management procedures.

**National Societies operating in Macedonia (present in the country or funding programmes)**

	<b>PNS</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>Disaster preparedness</b>	Spanish RC Swedish RC	Disaster assessment
<b>Disaster Response</b>	Finnish RC	Washing powder, used clothes contribution
	Swedish RC	Used clothes contribution
<b>Health and care</b>	American RC	Mobile health Teams
	German RC	Social welfare programme
<b>Organisational Development</b>	French RC	Five micro projects
	Norwegian RC	Youth programmes

***Outstanding needs***

After consultations and discussions with the UNHCR office the operational budget was revised and reduced accordingly. The UNHCR contribution in response of the Federation Appeal was therefore adjusted reflecting in a more accurate way the funding available for this Appeal. The budget was also revised with in kind donations from Swedish and Finnish RC.

After revision of the budgets and considering the funding available, the main outstanding needs can be identified as:

- ✓ Deficit in Social Welfare programme
- ✓ Lack of funding for hygiene parcels for IDP's ( approximately 9,000 beneficiaries)

Donors support is very much needed to complete smoothly the activities undertaken and to reach the objectives targeted.

<b><u>The next Quarter at a Glance</u></b>
✓ Continuing distribution of humanitarian relief to refugees and host families
✓ Regular health and psychosocial support
✓ Preparing Memorandum of Understanding with Macedonian RC for next year OD support
✓ Finalizing UNHCR sub-agreement for refugee relief and health care
✓ Preparation for 1 December World AIDS-Day

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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>.*

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<b>FYR Macedonia</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 01.45/2002</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>			02.12.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>1'525'119</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 91.1%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				58'925		
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		3'975	EUR	5'853	26.06.2002	DISTRIBUTION & PROG. SUPPORT
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		11'173	EUR	16'452	08.07.2002	DISTRIBUTION & PROG. SUPPORT
FINNISH - RC		5'642	EUR	8'271	13.11.2002	DISTRIBUTION & PROG. MGT
NETHERLANDS - RC				26'966	15.01.2002	6 MONTHS RUNNING COSTS DAF TRUCKS
SWEDISH - RC		12'500	SEK	2'015	13.05.2002	PROGRAMME SUPPORT & CONTROL
SWEDISH - RC		300'000	SEK	47'430	15.04.2002	HEALTH & CARE, CO-ORDINATION & MGT
SWEDISH - GOVT		300'000	SEK	47'700	20.05.2002	HEALTH AND CARE
UNHCR - 02/AB/MCD/CM/270		484'916	USD	706'432	30.11.2001	PROVISION OF FOOD & HEALTH ASSISTANCE
REALLOCATION FROM ALBANIA				78'720	22.11.2002	
LOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT				70'000	22.11.2002	
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>1'068'764</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>70.1%</b>
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			58'973		
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		53'900	EUR	79'368	26.06.2002	SECOND HAND CLOTHES, TRANSP/INS
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		36'540	EUR	53'805	08.07.2002	54'900 KG WASHING POWDER, TRANSP/INS.
FINNISH - RC		47'334	EUR	69'392	13.11.2002	12'980 KGS SECOND HAND CLOTHES
SWEDISH - RC		367'000	SEK	59'160	13.05.2002	SECOND HAND CLOTHES
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>320'698</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>21.0%</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SPANISH - RC		280'000	EUR	415'016	14.03.2002	10'581 PAIRS OF SHOES AND RUBBER BOOTS, BILATERAL
UNHCR - 02/AB/MCD/CM/270		4'981'680	MED	131'516	30.11.2001	PROVISION OF FOOD & HEALTH ASSISTANCE
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				<b>546'532</b>	<b>CHF</b>	