

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

ALBANIA

30 June 2003

Appeal No. 01.72/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 1,270,964 or USD 870,951 or EUR 863,437

Programme Update No. 1;

Period covered: January to April 2003

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 over 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 69.8 % (as of date of report issue. For up to date appeal coverage, click on weblink below:

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap017203.pdf

Outstanding needs: CHF 384,276 (USD 283,000/ EUR 247,000)

Programme Summary:

The Regional Delegation of Federation has continued to support the Albanian Red Cross in accordance with the objectives outlined in this annual appeal. The four core areas of the Federation's Strategy 2010 - disaster preparedness, disaster response, health and care in the community and the promotion of humanitarian values - represent the backbone of the Albanian Red Cross (RC) Strategy 2000-2004. In addition, the national society (NS) is focusing on organisational development (including fundraising and volunteer management).

The Norwegian Red Cross is supporting all core programmes. The Danish Red Cross is supporting humanitarian values and organisational development. The Finnish Red Cross is providing financial and technical support for Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Response.

Bilateral donors have supported projects and activities within different programmes. For example the Dutch Red Cross (health and care), Spanish Cross (social and organisation development), French Red Cross (health), American Red Cross (humanitarian values and tracing), Icelandic Red Cross (health), Swiss Red Cross (in kind donation for the social programme).

Operational developments

Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Response: The main activities have focused on the community, creating public awareness and facilitating the establishment of community level disaster plans. This focus is being supported by the strategic partnership with UNDP and the Ministry of Local Government. To implement its obligations, the Albanian RC still requires support from partners.

Health Programme: The work has focused on increasing the level of health knowledge among the population related to infectious diseases, personal and environmental hygiene. Almost all RC local branches are involved. Also with the support of the French Red Cross, the project: “Health Education in Community” and “the prevention of HIV-AIDS” will continue, and even be extended into more districts, and increasing the number of beneficiaries in 2003.

First Aid: The aim of the programme has been dissemination of first aid to the public and targeted groups, as well as the recruitment and training of instructors and volunteers for each sub-branch. The instructors of the sub-branches in turn have organised first aid courses for volunteers and other interested groups. By attending first aid training, the volunteers learn the principles and the practice of first aid and are able to assist casualties. In addition, the presence of trained first aid volunteers at public events and sport competitions raises the profile of the Albanian RC.

There is a lack of legal provision to support first aid services in Albania. The Albanian RC is aiming to achieve an official agreement with the Ministry of Transport on a “First Aid in driving schools” project. The issue is followed and discussions with experts of this Ministry are in process.

Social Programme: The activities of social programme have focused on working with elderly people, children at risk and women, who are disadvantaged. What remains crucial is the frequent assessment of changing needs and the improvement of interventions. The number of volunteers trained on working with the children is increased.

Humanitarian Values: The programme has been linked with other operational programmes and areas of activities of the National Society, providing more and better information on the humanitarian action of the Albanian Red Cross. Further dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values has been incorporated into this programme.

1. Disaster Management

Overall goal: Disaster victims receive fast and relevant assistance from the Albanian Red Cross

Programme Objective: To develop the effectiveness of the Albanian Red Cross programme for disaster preparedness and response to local disasters

Progress

The knowledge of Red Cross active volunteers and relevant government departments about Red Cross roles and responsibilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response is increased.

Numerous improvements have been made to the Albanian RC preparedness structures and system. A major step is the finalization of a disaster plan that is technically and financially supported by the Finnish RC. This plan is based on the Federation model plan and will be the basis for negotiating the roles and responsibilities of Albanian RC in the national disaster plan.

The level of awareness about disaster preparedness among volunteers and communities living in the high-risk areas is increased

After the awareness training organized at the headquarters, additional training was organized with volunteers in the branches, students and community members. More than 2,000 people benefited. During March some meetings with community members in high-risk areas took place.

The skills related to disaster preparedness (DP) and disaster response (DR) project design, report writing, community based disaster preparedness activities, risk reduction, communication systems, management of the projects, relief operation of Albanian RC at HQ, branch and sub branch level are improved

Based in the agreement with the three parties: UNDP, the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization and Albanian RC, three has been the main directions of this collaboration: the implementation of a survey for the Vulnerability Capacity Assessment, the compilation of the modules of training for disaster events and the presentations of the agreement in the six pilot prefectures (Lezhe, Shkoder, Durres, Berat, Kukes and Korce).

The Albanian RC structure for response activities in times of disasters at all levels is well functioning.

The four Albanian RC disaster preparedness warehouses are maintained, the regional warehouse in the North of Shkoder (capacity: 360 sq.m.) and in the southwest of Fier (capacity: 320 sq.m.), the central warehouse in Tirana and in Korca (300sq.m.) The society has started the replenishment of the disaster stock with stock moved to the new warehouse.

Impact

It will be easier to report on impact in the next programme update, after more time has passed.

Constraints

No remarkable constraints have occurred during this period.

Collaboration

Albanian Red Cross has collaborated with the UNDP and the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization at the headquarter level on the national plan for DR&DR, preparation of training on disaster issues and public awareness campaigns. The coordinator of DP&DR is a member of the working team.

At the prefecture level, collaboration consists of identifying at high-risk areas, preparing a contingency plan and the division and the harmonizing of roles and responsibilities.

2. Health and Care

Overall goal: Vulnerable groups have better knowledge to prevent health problems and influence their own well-being and specially targeted groups receive social care assistance.

Programme Objective: To increase Albanian Red Cross public health information, including First Aid awareness, and its effectiveness in meeting the needs of socially vulnerable groups.

Progress

The knowledge of the community on reproductive health, personal hygiene, prevention of infectious diseases and environmental hygiene has improved, the number of targeted people has increased by 20%

An evaluation of needs has been carried out in communes. Based on the results of the evaluation, communes and target groups were selected that will benefit from different health projects to be implemented throughout 2003.

The project: "Reproductive health" has started in 22 sub-branches, funded by Dutch Red Cross. The training materials for the coordinators in sub branches and the volunteers have been elaborated. During this timeframe didactic and informative materials, such as posters and leaflets have been designed and published.

In four sub-branches in south Albania the project on health education and the prevention of infectious diseases, funded by Icelandic Red Cross, has continued. However, the preparation of the project: "The prevention of AIDS" in the ten biggest sub branches funded by French Red Cross, has terminated.

In 20 sub branches, the teams of volunteers that will participate in the hygienic campaigns in the community have been created. Required materials for organizing these campaigns are sent to the sub branches.

Public awareness for the non-remunerated blood donation has increased and the number of non-remunerated blood donors increased by 5%

New volunteers have been recruited in ten sub branches for organizing the public awareness activities on blood donation. The volunteers have organized meetings with target groups. Materials for organizing the activities have been prepared for all ten sub branches.

First-Aid training and services have been provided to the public and the European standards have been met.

During the first four months of 2003 more than 70% of sub branches have organized information and dissemination activities in public places, schools and small enterprises. First aid volunteers, supported by their instructors, have organized demonstrations, discussions and distributed leaflets and posters for the participants. More than 1,000 persons have benefited from the activities.

A survey has been carried out in twelve branches regarding the possibility of giving first aid courses to the general public. Preparations have started in all branches for offering the first aid courses.

Contacts have been held with institutions, companies and different NGOs to evaluate their needs for first aid courses. Training has been organized with staff of UNDP and IOM in Tirana.

Trainings courses for volunteers of First Aid have been organized for the sub branches of Tirane, Durres, Mat, Korce, Pogradec and Elbasan. 90 volunteers have benefited from the courses.

After the recognition of the Albanian RC Certificate for First Aid by *the Reference Center for First Aid* last year, all training organized is based on the modules approved by the Reference Center.

Programme activities for lonely/elderly people and prioritisation of their basic needs are better targeted and expanded by conducting a national survey on needs and training more volunteers.

A round table regarding the survey took place in January, with twelve secretaries of the branches. It was to gather information about the work that has been done the last month with the elderly and to decide about the type of survey that will be carried out as well as the resources available in the branches and sub branches to carry it out.

During February, March and April, information, documents, assessments and comparative surveys of elderly people in Albania have been evaluated.

Assistance to the following social vulnerable groups will have been offered: 2,150 lonely elderly people, orphans, street children and poor families. Sewing courses will have been organised and provided for 550 disadvantaged women by end of 2003

On February and March the project: “Assistance to lonely elderly people and poor large families” took place. A total of 2,200 beneficiaries benefited from the first distribution of kits containing food items and hygienic items. Part of the kits were prepared from the disaster stock. The other part was a donation in kind made possible by Swiss Red Cross.

An assessment regarding the dress making courses the sub branches implemented last year was carried out in January. At the end of the assessment most branches will implement the project with their own funds. Tirana sub branch and Elbasan sub branch will implement the project with the funds of Spanish Red Cross. The sub-branches of Vlora, Berat, Kukes and Korca will start the first sewing courses for 2003 for disadvantaged girls and women with the funds of Norwegian Red Cross on April.

An education project for orphan and children at risk started in six sub branches: Kukes, Has, Diber, Mat, Bulqize and Lac on January with the funds of Dutch Red Cross. The number of beneficiaries is 360 children who are in difficult situations. This project was implemented last year in the sub branches of Kukes, Has, Diber and Mat. The children were identified during February and the programme of activities by the volunteers has been elaborated.

In the sub branches of Tirana, Shkodra, Durres, Vlore, Berat, Elbasan Fier and Berat 470 children at risk of dropping out of school benefited from the implementation of the project, Children at Risk, funded by Spanish Red Cross. Extra support lessons and non-formal education activities have been organized weekly. This is the second year of the project except for Durres sub branch, which is in its third year. Generally, the 15 schools involved benefit from the training offered to staff of the schools for the adaptation of curricula and the provision of equipments and didactic material.

In the sub branch of Lezha they are in the second year of the project, Reintegration of orphan children. Fifty orphan children benefit from the activities organized weekly and the family visits organized by the teachers of the project.

With the funds of Norwegian Red Cross a project focusing on the reintegration of children at risk started in Korca in March. Two schools have been identified and 50 children with social or economic problems, and learning difficulties were identified with the collaboration of respective education experts. The project aims at the reintegration of these children into the school and the society. In the district of Korca in March, an education project started for children at risk focusing on two schools and the communities close to the schools.

<i>District</i>	<i>Nr. children</i>	<i>Nr. Schools involved</i>	<i>Donor</i>
<i>Korce</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>
<i>Kukes</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Dutch Red Cross</i>
<i>Has</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Dutch Red Cross</i>
<i>Diber</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Dutch Red Cross</i>
<i>Mat</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Dutch Red Cross</i>
<i>Bulqize</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Dutch Red Cross</i>
<i>Lac</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Dutch Red Cross</i>
<i>Durres</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Spanish Red Cross(SRC)</i>
<i>Elbasan</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>SRC</i>
<i>Shkoder</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>SRC</i>
<i>Berat</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>SRC</i>
<i>Fier</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>SRC</i>
<i>Vlore</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>SRC</i>

<i>Lezhe</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>SRC</i>
<i>Tirane</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>SRC</i>

Part of the donation made in kind by Swiss Red Cross was a quantity of toys, chocolates and clothes, distributed to institutions of children and elderly like. Among the institutions that benefited were the Institute for Deaf and Mute Children, Institute for Blind Children, the orphanages in Tirana and Durres, kindergartens in remote northern areas and institutes for elderly in Tirana and schools for disabled children in Tirana, Durres and Elbasan. In addition, some of these materials were sent to similar projects being implemented by the branches.

Impact

One thousand people have benefited from discussions organized by volunteers in the communities. Seventy volunteers have received the certificate of First Aid.

The number benefiting from professional courses for disadvantaged women for the first three months was 80. Beneficiaries also received psychosocial services from specialized staff members. The branch of Elbasan and that of Tirana have contacted different employment agencies to support the women to find jobs.

Considering the situation of children at risk, the high percentage of children that drop out of school, the lack of proper measurements, lack of staff qualification, lack of didactic materials and the bad use of resources available, Albanian RC has extended the coverage of projects focusing on children at risk. A total of 772 children and their families benefit from the activities. Sixteen of the schools involved benefit from the provision of didactic and hygiene materials. Some 2200 elderly people have benefited from the distribution of a kit, containing food and hygiene items. Also family visits have been organized for lonely elderly people who require special medical and emotional care.

Constraints

Most activities during the first quarter were related to preparations and publications of leaflets as the first phase of the projects.

The negotiations with the Ministry of Transport to include the First Aid in the driving schools still continue but no concrete result has been achieved.

There has been a delay in the implementation of the second phase of the survey linked to the creation of the working team.

Coordination

The health programme has collaborated with the Ministry of Health and the Directories of Primary Health in the districts for the implementation of projects. Several meetings have been organized at the ministerial and local level to share information, participate in the network of organisations that work on health issues in the country and prepare the signing of the agreements for the projects.

Several meetings have been organized with the Ministry of Education and Science in the framework of the projects “Children at risk” and “The prevention of HIV-AIDS”.

Collaboration with NGOs operating projects focused on children and women at disadvantage have been established. Notable examples are the Counselling Centre for Girls and Women (which provides training for the women participating in the sewing courses in Berat), *Enfant De Monde* and *Women at Development*.

3. Humanitarian Values

Overall goal: Humanitarian Values and Fundamental Principles of the Movement are promoted in civil society.

Programme objective: To raise the image of the Movement and the Albanian Red Cross in particular among the public of Albania. To promote legal aspects of International Humanitarian Law, the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values among target groups.

Progress

The number of cases of registered emblem misuse will be monitored and reduced 25% by the end of 2003.

Nothing to report

The Albanian RC magazine, information bulletins, annual reports and promotion material have been produced and used for internal and external information.

The monthly informative bulletins and the information sheets for January, February and March have been prepared and published. The annual report for 2002 has been prepared. This year it has been conceived differently as a marketing tool for the Albanian Red Cross. Two editions of the Albanian Red Cross magazines have been published.

The popular Radio +2 and Radio Tirana transmission of "Message of the day", a project supported by American Red Cross continues this year. Through the radio different advice is given and messages prepared for the general public that focus on various topics such as health, first aid and human rights.

The level of knowledge on the International Movement and the Albanian RC among partners (government, local authorities, NGOs, universities, and journalists) as well as its own volunteers is improved and verified by a second phase of a public image survey.

Through the publication of different materials such as the information bulletin, the magazine and the distribution of these to the public and different institutions, organisation and agencies, the level of information regarding the Albanian RC and its activities has increased.

Impact

The number of people and agencies that have information about Red Cross activities is increased. Much of the work with local branches was undertaken to achieve efficient co-ordination with the local media. The local branches are becoming increasingly aware that the dissemination of their activities is a precondition to winning respect of the public and increase the support of the donors and the authorities.

Constraints

No remarks

Coordination

Collaboration is maintained with the delegation of American RC and ICRC in-country. Effort has ensured that the coordinators of programmes and staff in the branches worked together to represent activities of different programmes in the magazine, information bulletin and information sheet.

4. Organisational Development

Overall goal: The Albanian Red Cross has become a well functioning National Society that delivers its services according to the needs of vulnerable people in the country and its mandate.

Programme Objective: The Albanian Red Cross is operating as a well functioning National Society, by enhancing its efficiency and providing sustainable service programmes at central and branch level.

Progress

Branches will increasingly have taken ownership of the development process and the beneficiaries will have become increasingly involved in the project design process

A questionnaire for the profile of the branches has been prepared with the support of the American Red Cross. The questionnaire will update the data gathered for the profile of the branches in 2001.

In the framework of the capacity assessment in the branches in terms of human and material resources, a questionnaire has been prepared and sent to the branches.

In January the training phase for the project: Project Planning Process (PPP) finished and the manual of PPP was published. The manual was distributed to all branches and sub-branches of the Albanian Red Cross and will be used as a marketing tool.

Governance members are trained on parliamentary rules. Governance meetings at all levels have taken place and have applied parliamentary rules

In February the meeting of the General Steering Committee of Albanian RC was organized, where the policy of Albanian Red Cross for First Aid and Disaster Preparedness & Response was revised and approved. Also during February and March the meetings in branches and sub branches were organized according to the regulations stipulated in the Statute and the Internal Regulation. Based on the plan, the follow up training for the councils of the branches in Durres and Tirana was organized.

Resource mobilisation and fund raising capacities will have been developed and income generation at branch level will have been increased and diversified

During the first three months of 2003, the branches have increased the number of income generation activities, mainly in terms of professional courses such as sewing, computing, hairdressing and foreign language courses.

An effective volunteer management system will have been developed and established at the branch level and the involvement of youth volunteers has increased

3000 information files for volunteers have been prepared. The file contains information for the International Movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent, the history of Red Cross, activities of Albanian Red Cross, rights and duties of the volunteers and the programme of youth management.

Creation of the database has started. Technicians have been hired for installation. The manual for youth leaders to be used for the training organized with volunteers in sub branches has been elaborated.

The meeting of all members of the councils of branches responsible for the youth activities has been organized.

Impact

The staff of the branches and the members of the council of branches and sub branches have increased their skills in designing projects.

During the monitoring visits carried out during these months an improvement in the procedures of meetings organized in the sub branch and branch level was noticed with respect to following the parliamentary rules.

Fundraising activities in the branches provide some income - covering some running costs - to carry out small-scale activities. After the PPP training of branch staff, Durres and Tirana are making more proposals to local donors using their new skills of presentation.

Constraints

Lack of a fund raising coordinator.

Coordination

The coordinator of the volunteer programme has collaborated with other coordinators in the branches for the compilation of a volunteers file. In addition, working teams have prepared the profile of volunteers of Albanian RC. Collaboration with the UN Volunteers as part of a survey on volunteering has been strong.

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