

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

24 September 2003

Appeal No. 01.72/2003

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

Programme Update No. 02;

Period covered: May- August 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.

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In Brief

Appeal coverage: 83.6% on 17/09/2003. 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

Programme Summary:

Disaster Management: The strategic partnership with UNDP and Ministry of Local Government at the headquarters and in six prefectures has benefited implementation of a Disaster Preparedness plan at branch and sub branch level, and developed public awareness.

The Health Programme has had a number of sub branches involved, especially in remote areas, increasing knowledge among the population about infectious diseases, personal and environmental hygiene.

First Aid was disseminated to targeted groups and the public in general. There is a lack of legal provision to support first aid services in Albania. The Albanian Red Cross (RC) is trying to reach an official agreement with the Ministry of Transport on a "First Aid in driving schools" project. Discussions are in process and necessary documentation and materials has been prepared for when agreement is reached. Meanwhile, contact is established with some national societies (NS) that have experience of running courses for First Aid in driving school'.

Social Programme works with elderly people, children at risk and disadvantaged women. What remains crucial is the frequent assessment of changing needs and the improvement of interventions.

Humanitarian Values is linked with other areas of the National Society to provide better information on the humanitarian action of the Albanian Red Cross and dissemination Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

The Branch Development Programme has focused on Participatory Community Development with local donors funding two out of four proposals coming from the selected communities.

The Management of volunteers initiative organised trainings on leadership with volunteers in all branches and increased participation and motivation of volunteers through promotion activities and the publication of different materials for volunteers. A database of volunteers has already been installed.

The Norwegian Red Cross is supporting all core programmes. Other bilateral donors have supported projects and activities within different programmes. Humanitarian values and organisational development is supported by Danish Red Cross and American Red Cross; Disaster Management by Finnish Red Cross; Health and Care by Dutch Red Cross, French Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross and Austrian Red Cross.

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 (DP) and Response (DR) is increased.

After the approval of the Disaster National Plan by General Council, this plan was sent to the twelve branches and their respective sub branches, which started implementation. This implementation consists of raising awareness of the Red Cross local structure with roles and responsibilities, the structure of the volunteer teams and the scheme for responding in emergency situations. At the same time the branches are working on drafting contingency plans for the areas they cover.

A TV spot was prepared and is being broadcast on National TV Klan in peak hours. The message is: "Everyone, everywhere can contribute to alleviate the impact of disasters."

The Albanian RC disaster volunteers at sub branch level delivered 4,000 leaflets in high risk areas advice on self-protection in the event of earthquakes.

A simulation exercise of a major fire was organised in Tirana with the Civil Protection Base and Fire brigades. DP Team of Tirana sub branch (35 volunteers) also took part in this activity.

The disaster response and management function at central and branch level has the appropriate skills and necessary human and material resources for its task

In collaboration with UNDP and Ministry of Local Government, two training workshops were organised with the participation of headquarter staff and Secretaries from six Albanian RC branches. The main topics of the first workshop were related to the methodology of drafting a contingency plan and for the second, to training of trainers in local disaster management.

The implementation of a survey for a Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) is continuing with questionnaires designed and interviews with key persons at the local level.

The Disaster Preparedness Coordinator regularly takes part in drafting the national training module for disaster management. The Albanian RC contribution has been very useful in the six training models so far.

After the presentations of the agreement in the six pilot prefectures (Lezhe, Shkoder, Durres, Berat, Kukes and Korce), Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) for managing of disasters at local level were signed between Albanian RC branches and the respective prefectures.

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 (2200 sq. m.) and in Korca (300s sq. m.). The Albanian RC has also purchased new disaster stock.

Impact

The National Disaster Plan clearly has defined the role and responsibilities of Albanian Red Cross for emergency situation. This plan has been introduced to the government to be included in the National Disaster Plan of Albania.

The Albanian RC branches and sub branches are working intensively on implementation of DP Plan and on public awareness.

Constraints

The adviser and Coordinator involved with the VCA survey have left for personal reasons. This has delayed the project.

Collaboration

Albanian Red Cross is continuing collaboration with the UNDP and the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization at the headquarter level on the national disaster plan. This includes preparation of training on disaster issues and public awareness campaigns.

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%.

Projects on Health Education, Personal Hygiene, Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Environmental Hygiene have been closely followed. The table below gives information about the projects and activities Albanian RC is implementing in the health sector.

Project	Branches involved	Nr. communes	Nr. of beneficiaries	Nr. Volunteers	Donor
Reproductive Health	22 sub branches	-	16.000	200	Austrian RC
Personal Hygiene	10 sub branches	-	14.000	200	Dutch RC
Health Education	4 sub branches	12	12.000	80	Icelandic RC
Prevention of AIDS	6 sub branches	-	18.000	175	French RC
Health Education	4 sub branches	20	8.000	79	French RC
Hygiene in the community	16 sub branches	-	10.000	160	Austrian RC & local funds

Training sessions for volunteers have been organized for the respective projects. Two trainings were organized for the “Reproductive Health” project. After the training the volunteers started sessions providing information for community members. Also training sessions with volunteers have taken place within the framework of the project of “Health Education” (two trainings), “Personal Hygiene”(one training) and “Prevention of AIDS”(two trainings).

For all the projects and activities posters and leaflets have been published and distributed.

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

In ten sub branches activities on public awareness and information about non-remunerated blood donation were organised. In collaboration with National Centre of Blood (NCB) ten sessions for blood donation were held.

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

More than 30 sub branches conducted public awareness activities in public places and in schools. First Aid Volunteers, guided by their instructors, had talks with community members, distributed leaflets and put up posters in public places. They also gave demonstrations on FA techniques.

All twelve branches organised information activities for the public on First Aid in emergency situations and some sub branches ran courses for people living in high risk areas.

Training in First Aid has been held in more than 34 sub branches with 350 volunteers, mainly high school students, trained. During May and July new instructors in the sub branches received training and refresher courses were organized for existing instructors. First Aid teams from the Albanian RC continue to assist in stadiums throughout Albania.

Regional meetings on First Aid were held, attended by 319 volunteers from 32 sub branches. The final meeting is scheduled to fit into the framework of The World First Aid Day (second Saturday of September).

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.

There is nothing to report concerning the survey.

Preparations for the training sessions in all sub branches continued

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 organized and provided for 550 disadvantaged women by the end of 2003.

During this period 384 girls and women in disadvantaged situations benefited from professional courses run in six sub branches. Norwegian RC supported the project in four sub branches and in the two other sub branches the project was supported by Spanish Red Cross. Some of the sub branches followed up the beneficiaries individually, exploring possibilities of employment for them.

“The reintegration of Children at risk” in seven sub branches continued with 470 children benefiting from activities organised including summer camps for children and some of the parents in seven sub branches. A similar project started in April focussing on children with difficulties in the sub branch of Korca, involving two schools from the town. Six summer camps within the framework of Educative Project supported by Dutch Red Cross in north Albania saw 360 children benefiting. In the sub branch of Lezha the project for the reintegration of 50 orphan children continues. In the sub branches of Tirana and Durres day centres for lonely elderly people opened. Around 85 elderly people benefit from activities organised in the centre.

Impact

Around 66,000 people have benefited from activities organised on personal hygiene, health education, prevention of infectious diseases and environmental hygiene. About 894 volunteers have been trained on health issues. All the branches have been involved in First Aid activities, with in excess of 350 volunteers trained. The training sessions organised for new instructors will increase the capacities of the branches to respond to the new needs in the

Programme of First Aid on the eve of reaching an agreement with the Ministry of Transport for giving first aid lessons in the driving schools.

Around 930 children participated in summer camps. Activities focused on collaboration, tolerance, protection of the environment, RC knowledge and gender issues.

Constraints

The coordinators of the health project in some of the sub branches often have difficulty in providing qualitative training in the communes. Information on the activities is often submitted late which brings about the delay of reports to the donors.

Follow up of the activities in First Aid in some sub branches is not constant. On the other hand maximum involvement and responsibility is shown prior to regional meetings and activities organised at national level.

There is no clear plan for the social projects implemented. Such a plan would increase awareness of concerned communities on issues incorporated in social projects. A delay in the elaboration of documentation and data for the survey on elderly people also exists. (see Programme Update 1).

Coordination

The Health Programme has collaborated with the National Blood Center (NBC). Collaboration is also maintained with the Directories of primary health in the districts. Contact with UNICEF and WHO for sharing of the information and data available on health issues is ongoing.

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 carefully monitored and reduced 25% by the end of 2003.

The leaflet for the correct use of emblem has been prepared and shall be printed in collaboration with ICRC. Also, material for a training session on the emblem, with the participation of 24 representatives from the NS, is prepared.

The Red Cross 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 April, May, June and July were published. The Annual Report for 2002 was distributed to main partners, stakeholders and donors of the National Society. One other edition of the Albanian Red Cross Magazine has been published. Preparation for the September issue of the Albanian RC Magazine is underway.

In collaboration with ICRC a profile leaflet for the Albanian Red Cross containing information about Albanian RC in Albanian and in English was produced and will be distributed to main partners and stakeholders of Albanian RC.

Transmission of “Tip of the Day”, a project supported by American Red Cross, finished in April. For the past year, different advice was given and messages prepared for the general public on 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.

Public Image Survey Nr2, with 1,200 questionnaires conducted throughout whole country by an independent organisation, Illyricum Fund, is complete. Now preparation for the publication of the final version of the Survey is underway.

A training session with volunteers from Gjirokastra Branch on the Origin and History, Fundamental Principles, Emblem, International Humanitarian Law was held.

Coordination

Collaboration is maintained with the delegation of American RC and ICRC in country.

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 beneficiaries will have become increasingly involved in the project design process.

Based on the framework of Participatory Community Development four branches were selected to work with most vulnerable groups in Durres, Kukes, Tirana and Shkodra branches. Another training session on evaluating their capacities, finding the proper stakeholders, preparing a questionnaire and writing a project proposal was held in May.

Subsequently, and based on this training, the Albanian RC local staff and volunteers, in collaboration with the community representatives, submitted several project proposals to the Headquarters of Albanian RC, which decided to support one project for each of the branches.

The “ Donors round tables” in Kukës, Durrës and Shkodra resulted in one of the project proposals submitted by the Kukes Branch receiving finance of around USD 7 000 for one year starting at the beginning of September. A “National round table” in Tirana with representatives from Banks, small and big businesses, partner national societies (PNS) in Albania, Non-governmental Organisations and media gave communities the opportunity to directly meet donors and inform them about any problems. Only a small amount of money, around USD 2,000, was donated to Tirana branch activities, but the event was important for the greater involvement that the communities felt in the project design process.

The plan of action for 2004 was prepared based on project proposals drafted by sub branches and branches.

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

The meeting of the Steering Committee of Albanian RC approved the policy for Financial Development, Humanitarian Values and Organisational Development. Meetings in branches and sub branches were organised in the past four months according to the regulations stipulated in the Statute and the Internal Regulation. Based on the plan of action, the follow up training for the councils of the branches in Shkodra, and Kukës was planned.

In the sub branches, more than 5 % of Albanian RC members participated in branch assemblies, organised according to the Statutes and Internal Regulations of Albanian Red Cross,.

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

Nothing to report

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

The Sub- Commission of Volunteers Management finished its work on compiling the “Manual on voluntarism” which is a summary of policies on voluntarism. Included are: “ The definition of the volunteer”, “The rights and responsibilities of volunteers and Albanian RC”, “Recruitment techniques”, “Conflict of Interest”, “Volunteer-beneficiary relationship”, and “ Volunteers off duty”. The General Council approved the draft of these policies.



Volunteers discuss how they can work together more effectively to help communities in need.

Capacities of youth volunteers at all levels in communication and management of projects increased through training. Four regional training sessions - on group dynamics, the role of a leader in Albanian RC, characteristics and communication skills of a leader, along with tolerance, public relations, fundraising and project writing – were held.

The number of youth actively involved in activities of the Albanian RC increased. The “Children and Red Cross” painting exhibitions for children in elementary schools was a success in all 39 sub-branches. Then, the National Drawing Competition was organised in the National Art Gallery on the 8th of May. The entire activity is considered as a campaign for promotion of humanitarian values and Red Cross diffusion to children. The long term aim is to increase the number of Red Cross volunteers in the future. The campaign involved a lot of volunteers, teachers and school children. Young volunteers organised different information sessions and delivered posters and leaflets about Red Cross in most of the elementary schools of the 39 sub branches. About 3,500 children participated in the exhibitions with their paintings.

As a part of the World Red Cross/ Red Crescent Day events, Albanian RC launched a campaign with HIV-related anti-stigma and discrimination messages. In the National Painting Exhibition there was a special section with paintings from young people. Young children presented their ideas and perceptions on HIV/AIDS and how we all can fight discrimination. The National Drawing Exhibition is already an Albanian RC tradition for celebrating World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.

Different activities were organised by volunteers from different sub branches on the 8th of May: local TV talks, community hygiene actions; music shows; a pin campaign; leaflets on HIV/AIDS; information sessions on AIDS. Both national and local televisions covered the activities.

New volunteers were recruited through these activities and an electronic database of volunteers created that will start after the organisation of training on its use.

Impact

Most youth volunteers have acquired knowledge their capacities in communication and management of projects has risen. Ninety per cent of secretary branches use the “Manual on voluntarism” as a guideline.

Constraints

Not all youth leaders took part in the training on “Leadership”. Of those who did attend, some had already taken part before, therefore preventing other volunteers from gaining knowledge and improving their skills on leading volunteer groups. The lack of a fund raising coordinator was also a hindrance.

Coordination

Collaboration with UN Volunteers has continued. Research on voluntarism in legislation was conducted and a meeting on this issue took place with partners to address voluntarism issues with the Government.

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