

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

23 June 2003

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Appeal No. 01.73/2003

Appeal Target: **CHF 1,337,355 USD 1,017,000/ EUR 867,000**

Programme Update No. 1

Period covered: 01 January - 30 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: 57.3% (on date issued – latest coverage please click below

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap017303.pdf.

Outstanding needs: CHF 571,428

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Winter Humanitarian Needs (37/2002), Central Europe (01.76/2003)

Programme Summary: The International Federation continues to support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCS BiH) in its development process, aimed at improving the national society's (NS) ability to carry out its humanitarian mandate and to evolve into a well-functioning National Society. Owing to the generous support of the RCS BiH traditional donors (Swedish, Norwegian, Netherlands RC and Italian Government), the NS was in a position to meet the needs of the most vulnerable population through its home care programme, to implement various health, youth and organisational development activities. Despite the fact that the RCS BiH has taken the initiative in seeking additional funding locally, more support from international donors is needed to carry out the activities in line with the plan of action.

Operational developments

This year is seen as critical for a successful continuation of the difficult transition process that BiH is passing through. Substantial progress has been made in the further democratisation of the BiH society: for the first time in its post war history multi-ethnic governments for a full four-year term were elected at all levels; restructuring of Mostar as a unified city that would have a multi-

ethnic council established on the basis of the 1991 census started in April; and implementation of a strategy for educational reform that will ensure equitable access to educational opportunities for all in Bosnia and Herzegovina is underway. On the other hand, much more needs to be done quickly in the field of economy that is a key for BiH acceptance into Europe. Under the pressure of the international community the local authorities have changed fifty laws and sub-acts that obstructed faster economic development and the creation of new jobs, thus commencing a process that will rank Bosnia and Herzegovina amongst reformed countries with European principles and laws.

According to the latest statistics some 940, 000 refugees and IDPs have returned to their places of origin, including 400,000 so-called minority returns after the end of BiH armed conflict, while the property law implementation (PLIP) reached the ratio of 78%. As the completion of PLIP is expected by the end 2003, the international agencies dealing with this issue call on the local authorities to accelerate the pace of the PLIP and redouble their efforts to create conditions conducive to substantial return, i.e. equal opportunities of employment, education and social services.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, operating in an extremely complex political and socio-economic environment, has achieved a real and tangible progress in its effort to become the leading humanitarian organisation in the country. The RCS BiH has continued to provide vital assistance to the vulnerable elderly, children, women, minority returnees and mine victims. The RCS BiH representatives were invited to become members of the crisis staff during the joint exercise of the entity Civil Defence Units held on 5 March. This evidently shows that the RCS BiH, with its Disaster Preparedness (DP) programme has become a credible partner in providing assistance in case of emergency. Moreover, six Emergency Response Teams (Banja Luka, Bihac, Mostar, Orasje, Srbinje and Zvornik) were established within the National Society's DP Programme, and fifty auxiliary nurses were trained to provide basic services in the health and care programs.

The appointment of a NS Secretary General to help transform the RCS BiH HQ into an effective supporting body to the Red Cross structures in BiH would be a step forward. In addition, the Red Cross Law has not been passed yet by the state parliament. This has had a negative impact on the Society's funding. Rehabilitation of the RCS BiH HQ is another big obstacle that affects its performance. Since there are pledges by the Austrian and Italian RC, the NS has hired an architect to assess the feasibility of rebuilding the headquarters.

Information sharing, close co-ordination and meetings of the Federation Representative, the ICRC and three partner national societies (PNS) (Danish, Swiss and Spanish) took place on regular basis. Such an approach has strengthened the mutual relationship and has had a positive impact on support to the NS. A trilateral (RCSBiH, Federation, ICRC) agreement for support to the National Society is to be signed later this year.

Disaster response

To fill a serious humanitarian gap caused by lack of appropriate assistance to more than 100,000 minority returns registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 2002, the International Federation, with funds from the emergency winter appeal, launched on 23 December 2002, provided assistance to the most vulnerable minority returnees, particularly the elderly, disabled, and people who returned to settlements where few donors are active. Around 18,000 welcome parcels (combination of food and hygiene) and 8,000 family seed sets, consisting of 25 kg of seed potato, 1 kg of onions, 250 g of peas, 2 packages of lettuce, carrot, cucumber and cabbage and 1 package

of beet, parsley and spinach, were distributed. Four mobile/social integration teams were established in January in four priority areas (Doboj, Srebrenica/Bratunac, Tuzla and Glamoc/Bosansko Grahovo) and their work includes minor house repairs, distribution of relief items, referrals, social care (linking it to existing home care network).

Health and care

Goal: Position the RCS BiH as a credible partner and provider of services within the fields of social welfare and public health through its country-wide community based network, is strengthened.

Objective: To enable the RCS BiH to provide Home Care services to beneficiaries and to increase the capacity of RCS BiH to provide education campaigns on health issues and blood donor schemes.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Expected results

- **RCS BiH at all levels has become a partner to local government structures in providing services through the home care programme involving beneficiaries in the implementation of the programme and increasing locally secured funding**
- **Public awareness on health issues has been significantly raised through campaigns, namely by making use of teams of peer educators giving presentations on reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and drug abuse in secondary schools throughout the country**

In the year so far RCS BiH has continued to provide basic services for 10,000 Home Care Programme (HCP) beneficiaries (cleaning, shopping, home visits). Apart from the basic services the volunteers distributed a significant quantity of food and hygiene items and firewood collected during the country-wide fund-raising campaign launched in December last year. However, in the areas where Population Movement mobile teams operate, joint activities of these two programmes have been carried out, as many of the returnees assisted in the Population Movement programme fall under the category of the HCP beneficiaries.

As a result of the campaign the RCS BiH raised within a two month period KM 16 100 in cash and KM 108 000 in kind. It is planned that the RCS BiH will issue a press release informing the public about the results of the HCP Fund-raising campaign, as well as the letter of thanks to the biggest donors.

The RCS BiH cantonal and regional teams of peer educators continued with a reproductive health peer education programme in secondary schools in their respective municipalities. They advocated healthy lifestyles and enhanced the knowledge of the BiH youth about HIV/AIDS, STDs, unwanted pregnancy and gender violence. This programme has raised great interest among the young people. Although it is one of the "youngest" RC programmes, its quality, modern approach and successful implementation make it one of the most attractive and important NS health activities.

As a first step in local implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the International Federation and UNHCR at the Geneva level in October last year, the Federation Country Office presented the above mentioned MoU to the RCS BiH leadership in March. It is now up to the NS to take steps for the local agreement with the UNHCR Mission to BiH and its implementation and to customize the existing local First Aid curriculum in order to respond to the needs and realities of the UNHCR trainees.

All 84 RCS BiH volunteers from six newly established Emergency Response Teams were trained in First Aid, which represents a part of their compulsory 7-day training.

Within the co-operation framework between the Cantonal RC Tuzla and District RC Telemark from Norway, a three-day course for fourteen First Aid instructors from Tuzla Canton was organized. The RC volunteers/FA instructors from Telemark were trainers at the course, which was in line with the Norwegian basic FA course. All attendants passed the final exam and obtained certificates. This was only the first part of their training and the second part will be organized next year. The main task of those newly trained instructors will be to organize training for the First Aid teams in their respective branches.

After consultation with the International Federation and the RCS BiH, the ICRC provided ten First Aid Cabinets (one set consists of TV set, video recorder, overhead projector and two resuscitation dummies) from its Conflict Preparedness Programme fund. They were distributed to ten Red Cross branches, which were not equipped with those items when the International Federation distributed cabinets countrywide to improve NS capacity in provision of life-saving knowledge and skills to the population. It will also enhance the potential for income generation through the delivery of modern and standardized First Aid Education. The cabinets will be used both for the DPP/CPR programme and FA training for learner drivers and general public.

The Danish RC within its Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CABAC) programme provided psycho-social services to 1,400 children and their parents with assistance of 83 teachers/RC activists. Two teacher training seminars were held in January and each teacher attends a follow-up meeting every month.

The Swiss RC has continued to support the courses for auxiliary nurses throughout BiH. Twenty five attendants in Doboj successfully completed the course in February, while twenty six more obtained certificates in Livno in May. The course for twenty five new nurses is underway in Banja Luka. This programme is compatible with the Home Care programme and in some areas, like Sarajevo Canton, the nurses trained by the Swiss RC were involved in the local RC Home Care Programme. There are prospects for them to get a job in the Old People's Homes, kindergartens, hospitals.

The Spanish RC continues to help in prevention of drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and violence in the family through educational programmes in schools with assistance of the Red Cross Center for Education and Health Prevention in Trebinje. A well-trained expert team comprised of skilled volunteers (psychologist, gynecologist, pedagogue, high school teachers, RC Youth representatives) organised workshops for all primary school teachers in Trebinje who will use the gained knowledge in their work with schoolchildren. The training of the high school teachers is underway. The Spanish RC supports similar activities in the local RC Nevesinje for high school students and apart from this the primary school students attended lectures on oral hygiene which are accompanied with dental check-ups for all kids. The Spanish RC also provides free of charge medical check-ups for vulnerable elderly people in Nevesinje and more than 500 people benefited from this assistance up to the end of April.

Constraints

Within the present, difficult, social and economic context in the country, the RCS BiH faces a big challenge in the transformation of the Home Care programme into a self-sustained community based programme. Taking into account that it is an extremely complex programme to reposition and that the significant local funding has not been secured due to the slow economic recovery, the

NS Presidency is in the process of defining further steps that will improve the quality of the Home Care services in the areas that have not made the expected progress in the programme's transformation.

Organisational Development

Goal: Strengthen the National Society in developing its capacities and mobilising its resources to efficiently respond to the needs of the vulnerable population of BiH through its programmes and activities.

Objective: To develop an integrated development plan, diverse revenue sources and structures that allow the RCSBiH to respond to humanitarian challenges in the community and ultimately provide better service.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Expected results

- **An integrated five-year development plan of the RCS BiH has been established, a mission statement and vision defined**
- **Annual revenues for services provided have been increased, a fund-raising strategy has been developed, and at least one staff member per branch has been trained in fund-raising activities**
- **The number of non functional branches has been reduced (after the outcome of the assessment made by the National Society) and co-operation between different levels of the RCS BiH structure has been strengthened**

The RCS BiH hired a Financial Manager in February in order to improve the Society's financial reporting and sound financial management of the projects. The Federation covers the salary costs for that position.

As a part of an ongoing twinning project between Norwegian Red Cross districts and the RCSBiH cantonal/ regional organisations, the agreement on twinning between Eastern Herzegovina Region and NorCross Vestfold District was signed in the RCSBiH HQ premises in Sarajevo on 25 February.

The RCS BiH staff together with their colleagues from Slovenian, Croatian and Bulgarian Red Cross attended the seminar on Reporting and Capacity building organised by the Regional Delegation from Budapest, on 03-04 March in Sarajevo. The aim of the seminar was to build programme planning and capacity skills of these four NSs, and it is expected that this training will improve the quality and ownership of appeals and reports, particularly when NSs are under pressure in an emergency situation and information can be difficult to obtain. The participants were encouraged to use DMIS as a useful tool in obtaining information and the facilitators presented the Capacity Building Fund, which is an important element of the Federation's wider work to strengthen capacities of National Societies, as well as established CBF criteria.

The seminar was planned in 3 stages:

- 1) presentation and production of training curricula, guidelines and information in each of the NS's languages
- 2) training of selected trainers in each NS
- 3) support to the NSs to train their branch level staff

Since the two first stages have been finalised, the NSs were asked to provide Federation with proposals for the budget necessary for additional training of 20 more RC staff on branch level. It is the obligation of each NS to organise the training by the end of June.

Financial and technical support to the RCS BiH Presidency and HQ was provided in the reporting period. Despite the earlier Federation plans to phase out with the financial support to the Entity RC headquarters, it has been decided that limited support to them will be continued owing to the fact that the operational side of the RC activities still remains with the Entity RCs.

The Regional Delegation expert in fund-raising visited Bosnia and Herzegovina in March in order to follow up the results of the fund-raising campaign and to discuss with the RCS BiH leadership further activities in the development of the RCS BiH fund-raising strategy. The overall goal of the campaign was to increase the visibility of the HCP in BiH, especially in the corporate sector and increase its willingness to support the Red Cross, while objectives were to raise money from the corporate sector, to get more experience in planning and implementing a nation-wide campaign and to work together (NS and Entity RC) on a common goal and thus improve the image of the Red Cross as a whole.

The campaign was implemented with the support of the Regional Delegation's seed money. The HCP Management group had expected that the seed money should be five-fold, including donations in kind. With a total value of KM 108 000, the donations in kind exceeded invested money five times. One of the main reasons was insufficient action of the NS HQ in approaching authorities, embassies and NGOs. As a result, one useful point brought to light is that many of the branch managers need training in approaching corporations and making presentations of the Red Cross. As to the role of the entity and local RC staff, they executed their tasks on time and gained significant results.

In his report the fund-raising expert assessed that in general the campaign was a success, taking into account that it was the first well planned campaign with a common press conference. But the overall goal was only partially reached and the objective to raise money was not reached. The report concludes that the RCSBiH got more experience in planning and implementing a nation-wide campaign, including 'Direct mail'. It added that the knowledge and skills exist and the RCSBiH should create the right atmosphere and code of conduct for all experienced managers and co-ordinators. In that case, nation-wide, well-planned and executed campaigns would increase the Society's financial self-reliance.

The Entity RC General Assembly sessions were held in April and both organisations elected their new Presidents. The amendments needed for the election of a Secretary General on the NS level were not adopted by the RCRS Assembly.

As part of the Danish RC efforts to build the capacities of the RCS BiH, thirty RC Youth members in Prijedor were trained in psycho-social workshops. It is planned that till the end of the programme, two more workshops will be organised for the same target group. The Swiss RC has continued to financially support the small scale projects related to the traditional RC activities and designed by the local RC branches throughout the country. The selection of the projects was done in close co-operation with the RCSBiH HQ, and all reporting procedures follow the established authority line, which helps the NS to strengthen its structure.

Constraints

The lack of an appointment of a Secretary General and the pending issue of the RC Law adoption are affecting the RCSBiH development process. The Federation Country Office together with the ICRC will again provide all possible support to the NS leadership to resolve these issues.

Federation Coordination

The Federation Country Office has provided continued coordination and support to the RCS BiH in its development process. It has been achieved through extensive field trips to different RC branches, regular meetings with the Presidency and programme staff of the NS, as well as close co-operation with the ICRC Delegation and the three PNSs currently in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Federation Representative together with the NS PM Coordinator and RCFBiH Info Officer paid a visit to Swiss RC-run refugee camp Mihatovici near Tuzla, and had regular meetings with the DanCross staff based in Banja Luka and Bosanska Krupa and Spanish RC delegate in Trebinje.

As part of the Federation assistance to three NSs (RCSBiH, Croatian RC and Yugoslav RC) in defining their roles in the field of asylum and developing assistance to asylum seekers envisaged in the Population Movement program, the Swedish RC expert on asylum, who finished his mission in February, compiled the guide on assistance to asylum seekers in Europe. This will provide direction to the NSs in development of asylum activities. With support of the Federation the RCS BiH established good cooperation with IOM, OHR and UNHCR. The NS Presidency approved the MoU on cross-border return between Croatia and BiH, offered by the IOM Mission to BiH last year.

The Federation Representative and RCSBiH PM Coordinator had a meeting on 12 March with the Deputy Chief of the UNHCR Mission to BiH, where RC activities aimed at assisting returnees were presented. In consultation with the UNHCR, the selected areas for seed distribution were defined. During the visit of Swiss RC Programme Co-ordinator for BiH in March the Federation Representative discussed future support to the RCSBiH. With support of the Federation Regional Delegation and Country Office the RCSBiH organised a DPP seminar for 20 regional/cantonal DPP coordinators in Hajducke Vode on 22-25 April. The aim was to train the co-ordinators in design and implementation of the programme, and to enhance their knowledge in report and appeal writing in the case of disasters. The ICRC also took part with its presentation on Conflict Preparedness.

International Representation.

With support of the International Federation the RCSBiH staff, two entity Dissemination Officers and Programme Coordinator from the NS HQ attended a training-of-trainers communication workshops in Belgrade on 10-15 February. The main topic was how to promote communications throughout a National Society. The Communication Guide, produced by the International Federation as a useful tool for all communicators, was introduced to the attendants. It was also an opportunity to establish closer contacts with colleagues from other NS (Albania, Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro), and in the latest issues of the ERC magazines the articles on the RC activities in Macedonian and Yugoslav RC were published. Two ERC DPP Coordinators attended a sub-regional DP meeting held in Kotor, Montenegro, on 6-8 March. The meeting focused on the co-operation in the region, training and selection criteria for the Regional Disaster Response Team, Plan of Action and networking. The ICRC Belgrade Co-operation Delegate gave a presentation on the ICRC's conflict preparedness programme. In order to enhance the profile of the RCS BiH in the community and to build networks with international partners, the Federation Country office facilitated a press conference on 26 March at the NS HQ premises. It was attended by the Italian Ambassador to BiH, the Federation Representative and NS three Co-chairs. Since the Italian Government donated 104,000 Euro for the RCS BiH Home Care Program, it was a great opportunity to express the gratitude to the donors and to appeal to other donors in the country to support the program. All major TV stations in the country covered the event. The RCSBiH Chairperson and the Assistant Programme Coordinator attended the workshop on

Bosnia and Herzegovina; Appeal no. 01.73/2003; Programme Update no. 01

Advocacy in Social Welfare and the Participatory Community Development organized by the Regional Delegation in Budapest on April, 3-5. An RCS BiH Delegation, consisting of the Coordinator for International Cooperation and leadership of 3 Cantonal/Regional RC (Tuzla, Banja Luka and Eastern Herzegovina), paid a return visit to Norwegian RC in the first week of April. The aim of the visit was to attend the annual meeting of their twin organizations in the NorCross and to discuss further activities within the twinning project between the two NSs.

For further information please contact:

National Society - RCSBIH Chair person Ms Adela Skaro, email: rcsbih@bih.net.ba, phone: ++ 387 33 269 930, fax: ++ 387 33 200 148

Delegation contact name: Frans Lommers, the Federation Representative email: ifrcbih02@ifrc.org, phone: ++ 387 33 666 009, fax: ++ 387 33 666 010

Regional Department: Penny Elghady, Elghady@ifrc.org, Phone : 41 22 730 43 19; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95;

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>