

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

Appeal No. 01.73/2003

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

17 September 2003

Appeal Target: CHF 1,337,356 (USD 916,715 or EUR 908,642)

Programme Update No. 2

Period covered: May 1, 2003 – August 31, 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: 72.5 % as of date of report. For live Contributions list click below :

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

for the up to date coverage

Outstanding needs: CHF 575,063

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Winter Humanitarian Needs (No. 37/2002), Central Europe regional appeal (01.76/2003)

Programme Summary: The International Federation continues to support Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCS BiH) activities within the four core areas. The national society has been active in addressing vulnerability in many areas, including the supply of water to people affected by drought (See Information Bulletin – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=197> - dated 17 September. The RCS BiH has started a joint project with the Swedish Red Cross to assist BiH asylum seekers in Sweden.

Operational developments

In its efforts to towards a viable state before accessing European integration, the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted an Interim Law on merging entity Customs Administration, seen as crucial in tackling corruption (it is estimated that BiH loses over EURO 150 million due to illegal trading). Moreover, the entity Ministries of Education adopted a Common Core Curriculum in primary and secondary schools, enabling cancellation of the "two schools under

one roof" principle and ending segregation of school children. With this decision the Ministries will also reduce the costs of education and downsize the administration.

To establish a more functional and sustainable system of social protection, the entity Governments launched a forty-day long campaign on social reforms in fourteen big cities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the campaign citizens set a list of priorities: employment, termination of "black market", provision of regular pension payments, social and health care.

According to the latest UNHCR statistics 28,907 returns were recorded in the first six months of 2003, making a total of 960, 000 refugees and IDPs who have returned to their pre-war homes, including 415,886 so-called minority returns since the signing of Dayton Peace Agreement. A major factor that contributed to the significant return is the improved process of property repossession, which reached 84% by the end of June 2003.

On the other hand, the area of biggest concern is the slow economic recovery. Privatisation is lagging behind schedule and BiH has not yet become an attractive destination for investment. Foreign debt on June 30, was estimated at KM 4 billion, or EURO 2 million, (34% of GDP), while total debt of the country (including the internal and foreign debts) is estimated at 84% of GDP. In such a situation, BiH has to implement sweeping economic reform, fight corruption and reduce overstaffed and inefficient civil administration or face bankruptcy.

Apart from their regular activities, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCS BiH) has launched a poster campaign within the Population Movement (PM) programme, aimed at assisting and protecting the minority returnees in BiH, as well as a drug prevention among young people campaign. The RCS BiH started a bilateral project with Swedish Red Cross, which will provide assistance to asylum seekers and represents a completely new area of work for the RCSBiH. The project will last one year and three RC staff engaged in its implementation will work under the supervision of the RCSBiH PM Co-ordinator. In addition, four Emergency Response Teams (Kozarska Dubica, Doboje, Livno and Gorazde) were established within the National Society's DP Programme (sixteen teams have been established so far and it is envisaged that the remaining four will be in place by the end of 2003) and an additional fifty auxiliary nurses were trained to provide basic services in the health and care programmes, while thirteen RC Youth members became trainers for the International Humanitarian Law.

At the end of June 2003, the Danish RC finished its Children Affected by Armed Conflict Programme (CABAC) after seven years in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Swiss and Spanish RC continue programmes in health and care and capacity building of RCSBiH.

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.

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.

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**

Progress/Achievements

Owing to the joint efforts of the RCS BiH activists engaged in the Home Care programme and four PM mobile teams, the NS has continued to provide basic services for 10,000 most vulnerable HCP beneficiaries. In order to enhance the quality of the HC Programme, the Red Cross branches in Sarajevo and Banja Luka incorporated newly trained auxiliary nurses into the HCP and it is expected that other branches will follow this example.

The RCS BiH cantonal and regional teams of peer educators organised presentations in seven regions and four cantons informing 1,300 of their peers about HIV/AIDS, STDs, unwanted pregnancy and gender violence. Everyone attending the presentation received three different brochures dealing with the sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS and safe and healthy sexuality for young people.

On 8 May, the RCSBiH launched a campaign "Drug does not have the last word", aimed at preventing drug abuse among the young population. The ICRC supported production of a videotape with confessions of former drug addicts, which was distributed to all Red Cross branches, to be used in presentations to school children. A poster was also printed and a press conference was organised in Sarajevo on the day of the launch, while a round table was held in Banja Luka, with representatives from Ministry of Interior, Health, ICRC, Federation, DanCross and media.

This year the RCSBiH qualified for the first time since its establishment for the European First Aid Competition. The winner of the first nation-wide FA competition, a team from Prijedor together with their teachers and instructors and NS Chairperson took part in the competition, held in Prague and came a creditable 19th place.

During the visit of Pope John Paul II to Banja Luka in June, the RCSBiH provided tents which were used as checkpoints where medical teams provided services to pilgrims. This opportunity was taken to boost the NS profile in the community and once again good cooperation with the Ministry of Health was confirmed.

As a part of compulsory training, all fifty six RCS BiH volunteers of the four newly established Emergency Response Teams were trained in how to provide First Aid and psycho-social support to the victims of disasters.

In the last two months of its Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CABAC) programme the Danish RC continued to provide psycho-social services to 1,400 children and their parents with assistance of 83 teachers/RC activists. From next school year, educational reform will be implemented in BiH, and teachers will have to use new approaches and methods. Owing to their engagement in the CABAC, the teachers involved in the programme gained valuable skills important for their future work and recognised by Ministry of Education.

The Swiss RC has completed nineteen out of the envisaged twenty courses for auxiliary nurses throughout BiH- twenty five in Prijedor and the same number in Orasje. The course in Grude in Western Herzegovina Canton will be organised in autumn. The Swiss RC continues to provide psycho-social support to people accommodated in the refugee camp Mihatovici in Tuzla Canton.

The Spanish RC continued to implement activities related to public health education, psycho-social activities and provision of free of charge medical check-ups in the Eastern Herzegovina Region. As their target group is mainly elementary and high-school students, the period July-August was used to make necessary preparations for next school year and in agreement with the NS, the Spanish RC will spread its activities to two other RCSBiH regions/cantons, namely in Gorazde Canton and Old Herzegovina Region as of September.

Constraints

Insufficient support of the Entity governments and extremely unfavourable social and economic situation in the country, continue to restrict the expected progress in transformation of the RCS BiH's Home Care programme.

Organisational Development

Goal: Strengthen the National Society in developing its capacities and in 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.

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**

Progress/Achievements

The RCSBiH staff trained in Project Planning Process together with entity RC programme coordinators were involved in the planning process for the Appeal 2004.

Financial and technical support was provided to the RCS BiH Presidency and HQ annual assembly. Unfortunately, this session did not resolve the issue of the NS Secretary General and most of the time was dedicated to the adoption of the Report on the NS work in 2002, as well as to the adoption of Plan of Action and budget for 2003.

The NS hired a new Financial Manager and a lawyer/Dissemination Officer whose main task will be to work closely with the authorities to pass the Red Cross Law, on the agenda now for more than two years.

During the summer more than 400 RC Youth members participated in RC Summer camps organised throughout country. The activities were similar to those from other years, including training in First Aid, Water Rescuing, Communication, Home Care, and for the younger RC members workshops on History of the Movement, mine awareness, psycho-social activities and ecology.

A RC Youth Manual written by two local authors/ eminent Red Cross members to be used in the work with the RC Youth in elementary schools is soon to be published. As this is the first manual written by authors from both entities, and will be used throughout the country, the Federation Office financially supported this activity. It will be printed in the RC Print Shop in Kotor Varos and it is envisaged that the book will be published at the beginning of autumn.

As a part of an ongoing twinning project between Norwegian Red Cross districts and the RCSBiH cantonal/ regional organisations, the District RC representatives from Vest Agder visited Banja Luka/Krajina region. During the five-day visit , the NorCross delegation visited RC branches in Kotor Varos, Celinac, Laktasi, Gradiska and Banja Luka, as well as the site of the RC Youth Camp Balkana . It was agreed that special focus for future co-operation between two regions should be on the following activities:

- ten RC Youth members from Vest Agder will take part in Balkana Summer Camp.
- five RC Youth members from Krajina/Banja Luka will attend a follow-up to the IHL Seminar in NorCross training Centre Eidene, and subsequently teach IHL within the Red Cross organisation and to the public.
- Seminar in Laktasi on Home care programme/visiting service and branch to branch co-operation.
- a joint fund raising activity printing greeting cards at the RC Print shop in Kotor Varos and selling them in both regions.
- organise leader training/ideal management.

As a part of its exit strategy the Danish RC donated two vehicles and office equipment to the RCSBiH branches involved in CABAC programme or to the schools involved in the RC psycho-social activities. DanCross also trained twenty five RC Youth members in Kotor Varos in psycho-social workshops

Four RCSBiH staff and two volunteers attended the Project Planning Workshop organised by Spanish RC in Sarajevo to train the attendants how to apply the IFEE method for good project cycle design and management.

The Swiss RC has continued to financially support the RCSBiH in implementation of small scale projects designed by the local branches and related to traditional RC activities. It is expected that by the end of the year the RCSBiH HQ will have capacities to take over the whole process.

The RCSBiH has created its own web site (www.dckbih.org) with links to the Entity Red Cross web sites.

Constraints .

Development of human and financial resources is seen as the key for further capacity building of the RCSBiH. Failure to appoint the NS Secretary General and evident limitations in capacity at various levels, primarily at the central level, pose a serious threat to the Society's progress.

In addition to the two above programmes that were appealed for in (01.73/2003), the Federation – both in-country and from its regional delegation in Budapest – supported national society efforts in other important programme areas. A summary of this follows:

Disaster response

At the end of June, the RCSBiH successfully completed activities envisaged in the Emergency Winter Appeal. In the six-month period the most vulnerable returnees received 18,000 welcome parcels (combination of food and hygiene), 8,000 family seed sets, and 18.5 tonnes of second-hand clothing, while four mobile/social integration teams provided various services to 1,591 beneficiaries including in-house help, distribution of relief items, referrals, chopping of firewood.

The Federation responded quickly to help the RCSBiH provide drinking water for 1,745 families (5,235 beneficiaries) in three municipalities in the southern part of the country (Trebinje, Ljubinje and Ravno) which were hardest hit by drought. With the financial support from the Federation the RCSBiH distributed in one month 210 water tanks (8,000 litres each) to the affected population.

(See Information Bulletin for further details:

<http://www.ifrc.org/whe/re/country/cn6.asp?countryid=197>

Federation Coordination

In line with the regional strategic plan (2+2 plan) and following consultations with the NS leadership, a Country Plan for the Federation support to the RCSBiH was produced. It is envisaged that the Federation Country Representation Office will be maintained in the year 2004, and its main role will be to support and advise the RCSBiH in the implementation of its activities related to Health and Care, Population Movement and Organisational Development. The Regional Delegation will continue to provide technical and financial support for the Promotion of Humanitarian Values and Disaster Management.

World Red Cross/Red Crescent day was celebrated with joint RCSBiH/Federation/ICRC press conference held in Sarajevo. This press conference was an opportunity for the RCSBH to mark the second anniversary of its recognition by the ICRC and to inform the public about its activities. The Heads of ICRC and Federation congratulated the NS and at the same time called on authorities to provide all necessary support for adoption of the RC Law, which will enable the RCSBiH to carry out activities in line with its mandate.

The Federation Representative took part in the panel discussion about Roles and Responsibilities of National societies and International Federation, which was part of the ICRC basic integration course organised for ICRC staff from Middle East, Former Yugoslavia and the CIS.

The RCS BiH started implementation of a joint project with the Swedish RC in the field of asylum. The project, entitled "Info-network for asylum seekers from BiH", will last one year and is co-funded by the Swedish RC and European Refugee Fund. The aim is to provide necessary information to rejected asylum seekers from BiH currently staying in Sweden. In addition, with financial support from the sub-regional PM programme, the RCSBiH launched a poster campaign under the slogan "Let's help the returnees" and approached local authorities, all major international agencies, embassies and NGOs dealing with the process of return.

Several PNSs (Norwegian RC, Swedish RC, American RC and German RC) visited Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss possible support to RCSBiH programmes in 2004, twinning and implementation of bilateral projects.

International Representation.

The RCSBH Population Movement co-ordinator went to Sweden upon invitation of the Swedish RC to take part in a study visit. That visit represented a part of the Swedish RC support in development the RCSBH role and activities in the field of asylum.

The RCSBiH Chairperson and PM co-ordinator participated at the Bratislava Partnership Meeting and had the opportunity to discuss possibilities for further support provided by the Federation and sister NSs.

In July the Ambassador of People's Republic of China to BiH, Shujuan Lie visited the RCSBiH and had a meeting with the NS leadership at the NS HQ premises. During his visit he delivered a donation of 300 parcels of clothes. It is agreed that this donation will be distributed to the beneficiaries of the PM programmes in four priority areas of return.

For further information please contact:

- *National Society - RCSBiH Chair person Ms Sadzida Rasidagic,*
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
- *Zsolt Dudas, Regional Officer, Europe Department,*
Phone : 41 22 730 43 19; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95;
email: zsolt.dudas@ifrc.org

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>