

# PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

5 February 2004

Appeal No. 01.74/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 1.669.767 (USD 1.345 500) (EUR 1.065.500)

Programme Update No. 3

Period covered: September- December, 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:** For up to date coverage, click on link below:

[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap017403.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap017403.pdf)

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Central Europe Regional Programmes 2004 Appeal no. 01/75/2004.** For further details please see the website:

[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual04/017504.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/017504.pdf)

**Programme Summary:** The Federation Office was closed at the end of this year. The months leading up to the closure saw the Budapest Regional Programme Coordinator visit Macedonia twice to finalise the Federation exit strategy and programme transition to the National Society. Detailed steps of this process, programme handover and future support needs for the Macedonian RC were the main topics at meetings between Regional Delegation, Federation and National Society.

Although the Federation Country Office in Macedonia has now closed, there will be a three month transition period (January-March) that will be facilitated by three local staff.

## Operational Developments

“2003 was the year of security, interethnic, economic and international stabilization and normalization of the country after the conflict and the crisis we went through. That goal is fulfilled to a great extent.” said the Macedonian Prime Minister in his evaluation of the first year of this government’s rule in the parliament, in November 2003.

However, the final months of the year have been marked with political rather than economic happenings in the country. An action for voluntarily surrender of weaponry started in November and lasted till December 15. The amnesty programme allows all Macedonian citizens to surrender their illegal arms without fear of criminal charges. The action was judged a success and signifies a changed climate between Macedonian citizens.

Other issues, however, such as government decentralization laws, stirred rebellions in the municipalities and led to calls for referendum, the draft law for a new university in Tetovo again caused ructions.

According to the 2002 definite census results announced in December by the State Bureau of Statistics, Macedonia has a population of 2,022,547. Broken down into ethnic groupings; 64.18% or 1,297,981 are Macedonians, 25.17% or 509,083 are Albanians, 3.85% are Turks, 2.66% are Roman, 1.78% are Serbs, 0.84% are Bosniaks, 0.48% are Vlachs and 1.04% or 20,929 are other ethnic groups. There are 564,296 households and 23.1% of the total population live in Skopje. International community found the results “fair and accurate statistical analysis and represent a correct statistical image of Macedonia. The census was based on well established international and European standards.”

After the adoption of the Law for Asylum, and in line with changed focus of the humanitarian climate in the country, THAP (Temporarily Humanitarian Assisted Persons) status for refugees was not re-extended after September 31. Those people previously falling under this category were advised to apply for asylum and the majority (approximately 2,300 persons) accepted this advice.

The Federation Delegation was closed, as had been planned in 2002, at the end of December. Acting Federation Representative will continue with three local staff till April and take care of the closure of assets. Other financial matters, reports to the Federation and agreed handovers to the NS will also be carried out.

## Health and care

**Goal: Reduce the vulnerability of the refugees, social cases and internally displaced persons (IDP) through an effective social welfare programme**

**Objective: To use the information centre to strengthen the capacity of the National Society in increasing the well being of vulnerable groups and to respond effectively to their basic needs**

### Expected Results

- The information centre will be fully operational in 2003, beneficiary needs will have been registered for follow-up at a later date and, when necessary, referred to relevant aid agencies and institutions
- Access to medical assistance activities by beneficiaries will have been easy and satisfactory, especially for those with no previous access to medical services
- Psycho-social support will have been provided to those in need by trained local staff resulting in decreased stress among beneficiaries. Support will have been provided in collective centres, local RC Branches and collective or private accommodation. Activities for re-socialization of the beneficiaries through library opportunities and social clubs will have been organized
- Counselling of beneficiaries regarding their legal status will have been provided
- Coordination with other aid agencies will have been effective to avoid duplication of activities. Contacts will have been established with relevant ministries to increase cooperation and assist integration of beneficiaries in the local community.
- Full handover of the programme to the Macedonian RC will have been accomplished by the end of 2003

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

The Info-Centre continued its regular activities in Social Welfare and Health area during this reporting period. All the activities mentioned in the previous programme updates continued and in numbers it is as follows:

	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>
<b>Interviews</b>	392	481	607	596	527
<b>Telephone calls</b>	318	376	719	614	512
<b>Psycho social support</b>	9	12	16	19	12
<b>Medical support</b>	201	216	276	302	327
<b>Other</b>	116	101	172	212	196
<b>Education</b>	82	82	82	46	46

The UNHCR funded project for Provision of Health Assistance to refugees that is coordinated by the Info-Centre, continued to be the major activity. Three doctors and three nurses provided primary health care for refugees and transport for patients to the public health institutions when needed. Federation staff assisted in referring refugees to health institutions and intermediated in resolving any problems (follow up of patients) in secondary and tertiary health institutions.

The Federation, UNHCR and the Ministry of Internal Affairs organized a seminar for treatment and psychosocial support of asylum seekers.

Other activities that were organized in this period included:

- Lectures in the collective centres for refugees and IDP's on HIV/AIDS prevention and distribution of brochures on this topic.
- For the New Year, the Federation distributed New Year parcels to the children of IDP's in collective centres (217 parcels), in host families (419 parcels) and children of refugees in collective centres (175 parcels). The distribution was assisted by donations from the Norwegian Embassy in Skopje and Kosmofon- Skopje.

### **Impact**

The impact this programme has on the well being of vulnerable people and raising of the Red Cross image in the country, can be seen by the number of beneficiaries it serves through visits and services offered. This ensured the continuation of the work of this centre after Federation closure.

### **Constraints**

There are no specific constraints concerning this programme. Although THAP status of the Kosovo refugees has been discontinued, as asylum seekers they have remained RC beneficiaries.

## **Disaster Management**

**Goal: Improve the living conditions of vulnerable groups in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and to reinforce Macedonian Red Cross's effectiveness in responding to any man-made or natural disaster**

**Objective: To continue supporting the vulnerable groups (refugees, IDP's and social cases) through provision of relief items and to prepare the Macedonian RC to respond in a timely, effective and focused manner to any disaster in the country and in nearby countries**

### **Expected Results:**

- The supply and distribution of hygiene and baby parcels to refugees, IDP's and social cases, as needed, will have been carried out in coordination with ICRC, Red Cross partners, and other agencies (UNHCR, WFP, InterSOS, ECHO)
- Basic emergency stock will have been established as a back-up for natural or man-made disasters in Macedonia or neighbouring countries and staff will have been trained accordingly. Training curriculum will have been developed and facilities will have been created to regularly train volunteers throughout the

country and mobilise them in time of disasters. In addition there will be increased knowledge and understanding of disaster preparedness by volunteers and disaster preparedness policies and related public information will have been disseminated

- Macedonian RC staff, both at local and central level will have been trained; interaction and partnerships with other National Society DP coordinators in the region will have been increased.

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

THAP (Temporarily Humanitarian Assisted Persons) status of the Kosovo refugees in Macedonia expired in September 2003 and was not extended. They were advised to apply for asylum. The majority of the refugees become asylum seekers, but still remained under UNHCR protection and Red Cross beneficiaries. The number of refugees, now asylum seekers, is around 2,700 persons. The Red Cross part in assisting this vulnerable group was providing of hygiene items, procured from Finnish Red Cross donation.

#### Refugees in collective centres

There are two collective centres where refugees are accommodated: Katlanovo- 475 people- and Gazi Baba- 40 people.

<b>September</b>	173 hygiene parcels	27 baby parcels
<b>October</b>	165 hygiene parcels	24 baby parcels
<b>November- December</b>	326 hygiene parcels	50 baby parcels

#### Refugees in host families

There are 2,706 persons accommodated in host families and they all received middle hygiene parcels. Hygiene parcels were distributed to the host families as well. Federation also supported Macedonian RC branches' distribution costs with 0.5 CHF for every distributed hygiene parcel.

	<b>September-October</b>	<b>November-December</b>
<b>Refugees in host families</b>	1382 hygiene parcels	1222 hygiene parcels
<b>Host families</b>	69 hygiene parcels	73 hygiene parcels
<b>Babies up to 18 months</b>	120 baby parcels	120 baby parcels

During this period, regular distributions of diapers for children and elderly people were conducted.

#### UNHCR food-items support

Basic food basket for refugees living with host families consists of wheat flour and one box of different commodities i.e.:

Wheat flour, one bag of 9 kg per person and food parcel containing: 1 kg beans, 1 kg rice, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg pasta, 1 litre oil, 500 gr. salt, 100 gr. yeast and 250 gr. of canned fish.

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>September/October distribution</b>	<b>November/December distribution</b>
Wheat flour	38.430 kg	37.088 kg
Food parcels	4.268 boxes	4.119 boxes

Refugees in collective center Katlanovo continued to receive basic and complementary food, procured by the UNHCR funded project.

	Normative person	per	September	October	November	December
<b>Wheat flour</b>	12 kg		495	486	504	450
<b>Oil</b>	1 lit		500	279	480	450
<b>Beans</b>	1 kg		500	0	500	350
<b>Sugar</b>	1 kg		500	450	500	450
<b>Salt</b>	0.2 kg		0	0	100	50

Other categories of vulnerable people were also supported with different items: washing powder, special food parcels, hygiene and baby parcels, medicaments etc.

#### Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

The number of IDPs is decreasing, but there are still 2,678 people that feel insecure about going back to their homes. Norwegian Embassy in Skopje covered the costs of the October food distribution for IDPs. For November and December distributions Red Cross branches, in cooperation with City Red Cross, provided food parcels. This was the last food distribution Red Cross supported. From 2004 the Macedonian Government will be responsible for this category.

A wide range of activities in Disaster Preparedness area continued. Swedish Red Cross donation covered salaries and operational costs of the disaster preparedness team that has served in different areas of disaster preparedness and disaster response activities.

The CD Database of disaster prone areas and disaster capacities in Macedonia has started to become a useful tool for institutions in Macedonia that can benefit from the information stored. In this period the database was presented at the Congress of Seismologist in Macedonia.

Participation of Macedonian RC representative at meetings of the Ministry of Defence on the topic of civil-military cooperation in the event of disasters, once more emphasized the role of RC in the national disaster preparedness.

However, this year the top activity in disaster preparedness area was a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) workshop in Struga at the beginning of November. The participants of this seminar were from the fifteen countries of Central Europe. The Macedonian RC Disaster Preparedness team, for this workshop, staged a scenario "earthquake" where participants from the Ministry of Defence, Internal Affairs, five Red Cross branches and local municipality representatives were engaged.

#### **Impact**

Continuing support of the Macedonian RC in its relief programmes, assisting refugees with hygiene and other non-food items that complemented UNHCR food support has been one of the Federation's main responsibilities for the last five years.

Setting up a Disaster Preparedness Unit as part of the Macedonian RC Headquarters, that has human and material resources, has been one of the major Federation acquisitions during the presence in the country.

#### **Constraints**

The main constraint will be impossibility of the Macedonian RC to secure funds to continue the work of the Disaster Preparedness team members "responsible" for successful set-up of disaster preparedness at the HQ level.

## **Organizational Development**

**Goal: Improve the overall capacity of the Macedonian RC to develop and deliver responsive and sustainable programmes to meet the needs of the vulnerable groups in FYROM**

## **Objective: To increase the ability of Macedonian RC to manage programmes and obtain funding both for headquarters and branches**

### **Expected results:**

- Reporting, management and coordination skills of the Macedonian RC staff will have been improved, including financial management, with provision of financial software and training that will contribute to better project management and increased funding
- The role of the National Society within civil society will have been better defined and the image of the National Society will have raised.

### **Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)**

Activities in Organizational Development area were again one of the main activities of the Federation in this last period of direct presence and support to the National Society. A Head of Movements meeting was held in early November to give instructions to the National Society on how to participate fully at the statutory meetings in Geneva, also held in November.

Budapest Regional Programme Coordinator visited Macedonia twice, once in September and once in November. The main purpose of both visits was to finalise the Federation exit strategy and programme transition to the National Society.

Detailed steps of this process, programmes handover and future support needs for the Macedonian RC were the main topics at the last meetings between Regional Delegation, Federation and National Society.

The activities funded by Capacity Building Fund for these period included:

- At the beginning of September a Fundraising and Marketing Workshop was held. The participants were Headquarters Coordinators and Branch Secretaries. The workshop was facilitated by the Heads of Fundraising from the Bulgarian RC and the Macedonian RC. This main intention of the workshop was to introduce to Branch Secretaries new ways and possibilities in approaching donors, both domestic and international.
- The Finance Development process has been ongoing. Computerized accounting has now become the main accounting system of the Macedonian RC. Complete book-keeping for 2003 has been entered into the finance software and the data is completely compatible with the previously used accounting system.
- Publishing support for Macedonian RC magazine "Solidarnost".

### **Impact**

Activities that have been implemented in this period are expected to have an increased impact in the future. The cooperation and commitment of the National Society during the process of capacity building also strengthen the expected impact.

### **Constraints**

Macedonian RC headquarters has been cooperative to the transition and capacity building process. But transferring these messages to the branch level is a constraint that the Federation is anticipating.

### **Coordination**

The Federation representative regularly attended inter-agency meetings chaired by UNDP as well as the weekly OSCE information meeting. Regular meetings between Movement Representatives were ongoing as well. Naturally, the focus has been on fazing out and developing an exit plan that integrates International RC support directly with the National Society.

As an example, the Regional Delegation in Budapest invited Desk Officers from several Participating National Societies to discuss effective Regional Support in the transition period. This is when there is no Delegation present in the country, but four local staff maintaining the office for three months until March 2004.

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*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.*

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