

# 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

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

03 December 2004

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 181 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

Appeal No. 01.73/04; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: 01 July to 31 October, 2004; Appeal coverage: 96.0 %; (*Please click here to go directly to the Contributions List*)

Appeal target: CHF 1,091,103 (USD 951,045 or EUR 714,475)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Bosnia and Herzegovina Annual Appeal 2004. For details, please see the website at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual04/017304.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/017304.pdf)

Central Europe Regional Programmes Annual Appeal 2004. For details, please see the website at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual04/017504.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/017504.pdf)

Bosnia and Herzegovina Floods Emergency Appeal No. 11/2004. For details, please see the website at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?04/1104.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/1104.pdf)

#### Programme summary:

Owing to the extremely good appeal coverage, the Federation was in position to support the main activities of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH) in all core areas as envisaged in the annual appeal.

Almost four years after its international recognition, the RCSBiH got full recognition by its authorities, i. e. Red Cross Law was passed in both houses of the national assembly.

The RCSBiH has expanded its twinning project with the Norwegian Red Cross to one more canton.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. 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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## Operational developments

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has achieved commendable results in its efforts to secure admittance to Partnership for Peace and to begin negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the European Union. The country implemented thirteen out of sixteen set reform points and adopted thirty out of forty bills highlighted as requirements of the European Commission's Feasibility Study. For the first time ever, BiH independently organised, funded and conducted local elections that went peacefully and according to the international standards. One of the major problems in fulfilling international obligations remains the failure to co-operate with the United Nations (UN) war crimes tribunal.

Following the findings of the Republika Srpska Government Commission on Srebrenica, which has been investigating the fate of the men who went missing in and around Srebrenica in mid-July 1995, the Republika Srpska government issued a formal apology for the deaths of 7,800 Bosniaks in that enclave and pledged to take "decisive steps to bring to justice all those who committed war crimes". Having completed its important mission, the Srebrenica Commission laid a cornerstone for the successful post-war reconciliation.

Throughout the reporting period, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH), with Federation support, provided direct assistance to beneficiaries of Home Care, Population Movement and Disaster Preparedness programmes. In addition, the Red Cross Law was adopted and the RCSBiH representatives attended various international camps and workshops, marked the Week of struggle against Tuberculosis (TB) and the International Day of the Old People.

Response to the appeal has been good as the appeal coverage is CHF 1,047,440 (96.0 per cent). Like in the previous years, the main donors are the Norwegian Government/RC, the Swedish Government/RC, the Netherlands RC (delegate costs) and the Irish RC.

The appeal coverage as of October 2004 per each project is shown in the table below:

<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Appeal coverage (%)</b>
<b>Health and Care programme</b>	
Home Care	59,17
Health	53,34
<b>Disaster Management programme</b>	
Population Movement	100
<b>Organisational development programme</b>	
Financial management & development	12
Youth development	40

In its efforts to boost the image of the organisation within the community and to promote Red Cross values and principles, the RCSBiH formed the network of twenty dissemination staff with financial support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). At the end of October, the RCSBiH staff finished the last (fourth) phase of "Ante mortem data base" campaign, aimed to assist in the identification process of the missing persons. During the first three phases, the Red Cross workers contacted 11,234 families of the missing persons and gathered 3,378 ante mortem questionnaires.

The Swiss and Spanish Red Crosses, as two partner National Societies present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, have continued with their programmes in the areas of health and care and branch development of the RCSBiH, while the Norwegian, Swedish and German Red Crosses have been implementing bilateral projects with the RCSBiH.

## Health and care

**Goal: Sufficient resources for quality services to home care beneficiaries are provided and high quality health activities are offered to the population by the RCSBiH**

**Objective: The technical and organisational capacity of the RCSBiH to provide high quality home care services, first aid skills and promote voluntary blood donation and healthier lifestyle is enhanced**

### Expected results

- **The needs of home care beneficiaries are met**
- **Increased funding by government at different levels**
- **The RCSBiH has: increased the number of voluntary blood donors; significantly improved first aid skills; and raised public awareness on substance abuse, TB, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS**

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

During the reporting period, the RCSBiH activists continued to provide a variety of services (maintenance of personal and domestic hygiene, shopping, distributing basic relief items, social contacts, referrals and transportation to health institutions) for 10,000 most vulnerable elderly. In Eastern Herzegovina Region, the Health and Care activists distributed second-hand clothing and footwear (5,800 EUR worth donation of District RC in Vestfold, Norway) to the home care beneficiaries in all seven branches of this region, while 30 poorest Home Care Programme beneficiaries in Srebrenica received 5 cubic meters of firewood, as a donation of the Italian Non-Governmental Organisation "Solidarite". Traditionally, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, the International Day of the Old Persons, all Red Cross branches organised numerous activities, ranging from free of charge medical check-ups for the pensioners, social gatherings, home visits to distribution of food and hygiene parcels, diapers and medicines. Based on last year's success, the RC branches in Krajina region decided to launch a two-month fund-raising campaign named "Help us to help" in an attempt to secure local funding for the Home Care Programme.

As part of the Red Cross's efforts to raise First Aid (FA) awareness among young people, promote the importance of protecting and saving lives and minimise the effects of accidents, the RCSBiH organised FA competitions on various levels (branch, regional/cantonal, entity) and the best 12 teams qualified for the third nation-wide FA competition that was held in Banja Luka on 25 September. The winner (Prijedor team) will represent the RCSBiH at the international FA competition next year.

The RCSBiH plays an important role in fighting with tuberculosis, especially in educating population and providing social support to the patients and their families. During the Week of struggle against TB (14-21 September), the focus of the Red Cross was on educating people on how to detect and control TB and ensuring a wider acceptance of the Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course (DOTS) as a cost-effective and the most successful treatment method. As part of the campaign, the posters highlighting free of charge TB treatment and DOTS were distributed to the Red Cross branches, schools and health institutions, while the RC volunteers in all municipalities were selling RC stamps and money raised during the campaign was used for purchasing food and hygiene parcels for TB patients.

A joint initiative of Cantonal RC Sarajevo and Regional RC Old Herzegovina, aimed at providing medical assistance for the returnees living in remote settlement in Visegrad area, is one of the best ways of how to profile the Red Cross as a serious partner in health programmes. Nine medical doctors and nine nurses, accompanied with Red Cross staff and volunteers from both RC organisations, provided the following services: 215 medical check-ups, measuring of blood pressure and glucose, and distribution of 75 pairs of eye-glasses, as well as medicines (donation of the Sarajevo-based pharmaceutical company "Bosnalijek"). Moreover, the Red Cross staff distributed humanitarian assistance for 173 returnee families.

The Spanish RC continued to implement the activities related to public health education and psycho-social activities in the Eastern and Old Herzegovina Regions, and Bosnia-Podrinje and Herzegovina-Neretva Cantons.

## Disaster Management/Population Movement

**Goal: Vulnerability of communities in six priority regions of minority return is reduced**

**Objective: Vulnerability-focused programmes and advocacy on behalf of minority returnees and asylum seekers are led and managed by the RCSBiH**

### Expected results

- Six mobile social integration teams will have made 6,000 interventions in a community-based manner for returnees
- The role of the RCSBiH in the field of asylum is defined and recognised by the Government and other stakeholders

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

All six mobile socio-integration teams, established within the RCSBiH Population Movement (PM) programme, continued to provide various kinds of assistance to the vulnerable returnees. Their main activities include distribution of relief items, cutting of firewood, in-house help and handling referrals. Those teams closely co-operate with the grass-root volunteers who assist them in identifying new beneficiaries. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) statistics, 16,517 people returned to their homes in BiH in the first eight months of 2004, and of that number, 11,529 were so-called minority returnees. The RCSBiH provides assistance to the most vulnerable of them according to the set criteria. Owing to the high quality services provided by PM teams, the UNHCR field offices established close co-operation with the Red Cross and regularly provided mobile teams with basic relief items (blankets, candles, food and hygiene items, firewood) to meet the needs of returnees in the initial period after return.

According to the reports available from the field, the number of visits carried out by all six teams in the period June-September are shown in the table below:

Team	Month	June	July	August	September	Total
Doboj		87	88	84	69	328
Birac		63	43	46	62	214
Tuzla		165	160	135	122	582
Glamoc		50	51	N/A	N/A	101
Gorazde		33	36	35	38	142
Foca		35	38	46	26	145
<b>Total per month</b>		<b>433</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>1,512</b>

A bilateral project with Swedish RC, "Info-network for Asylum Seekers from BiH" that started in August 2003 and was initially planned to last 12 months, has been extended for another year due to the increased needs for such type of service for failed asylum-seekers. The project runs smoothly, thanks to the efficient system of information gathering developed by the staff of the RCSBiH and Swedish RC involved in it. The project is funded by the European Refugee Fund.

The German RC financially supported the establishment of two multifunctional Red Cross Internet Centres for Youth training and gathering in Novi Grad (Sarajevo Canton) and Petrovo (Doboj Region). Since the main aim of the project is to provide basic knowledge in Information Technology as a precondition for future education, there is a huge interest for such type of training among the young people. To that end, the two Red Cross branches are working on plans to make this project self-sustainable.

## Organisational Development

**Goal: The capacity of the RCSBiH to meet humanitarian needs and empower the most vulnerable populations in BiH is enhanced.**

**Objective: The RCSBiH is more functional and efficient and has strengthened its financial self-reliance - including broadening the range of its funding resources - long-term planning and branch structure.**

### Expected results

- **A mission statement and vision is defined, the number of volunteers involved in programme delivery increased, and the Red Cross' headquarters is reconstructed**
- **The ability of RCSBiH to generate financial resources for its programmes and to diversify sources of funding is developed**
- **The capacity of the branch structure to deliver the RCSBiH services is improved**

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

In order to enhance the RCSBiH's capacity in development of its financial resources, the Federation enabled the National Society (NS) Finance Manager to attend the "Red Cross Fundraising skill-share" workshop. The workshop was organised by the Federation in Amsterdam between 15-18 September. Apart from various presentations, fund-raising activities of different National Societies (like lottery in British RC), innovative ways in resource generation and the role of the Secretary General in the fund-raising were on the workshop's agenda.

Financial and technical support to the RCSBiH Presidency and headquarters was provided in the reporting period. A similar support was provided to the Entity RC organisations for their strategic planning meetings/workshops, which represent a part of the overall RCSBiH effort to develop the NS strategy for the 5-year period (2005-2010). During the meeting organised by the Red Cross of Republika Srpska in October, the following strategic objectives were adopted:

- resource development,
- sustainability of existing programmes and their improvement,
- to strengthen the role of volunteers,
- to build partnership with governmental and non-governmental organisations and RC/RC Movement,
- to enhance the RC image within community.

In addition to the NS and the Entity RCs leadership, the Secretary Generals of Serbian, Macedonian and Montenegrin Red Cross Societies attended the meeting. All three guests appreciated that kind of regional co-operation, as their Red Cross organisations go through the similar process of transformation and such meetings help them to exchange views when trying to find the best solution for their future work.

Among various activities aimed to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Red Cross in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the RCSBiH published a book named "The Red Cross in Bosnia and Herzegovina yesterday, today and tomorrow" with financial support of the Federation. The book gives an overview of the work and role of the Red Cross in the BiH society since its foundation till present time and suggests possible directions for future development.

As a result of the RCSBiH leadership's active lobbying of BiH authorities, in October, both houses of the national parliament adopted the Law on the status of the RCSBiH. This Law is expected to significantly improve the funding situation of the NS. The Council of Ministers (BiH Government) has promised the amount of 180, 000 KM (approximately EUR 90,000) for the Tracing Service and other activities of the Red Cross. The NS has been working very hard to enjoy good relations with the Government and there are encouraging signs for the Red Cross to obtain financial support which will help in reinforcing the RCSBiH's role and mandate. Its programme staff is now working on the proposal of activities that will be submitted to the Government for possible funding. The adoption of the entity RC Law in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is still pending, as it was conditioned in the entity Parliament by passing the Law on state level. Now, when that obstacle has been removed, the positive move is expected from the entity parliament in the nearest future.

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In order to review the progress in the twinning project between Norwegian Red Cross districts and the RCSBiH cantonal/ regional organisations, and to discuss future activities, the representatives of all districts/regions/cantons involved in the project, as well as persons in charge of international co-operation in both National Societies attended the annual meeting held on Mount Jahorina on 23- 24 September. The main topics at the meeting were the importance of twinning for NSs, successes, challenges and ideas in twinning projects. Following the group work, the participants presented their suggestions and ideas for next year's activities. This annual meeting was also an opportunity for further expansion of this project to one more canton/district. The Central Bosnia Canton and Opland District is the fourth pair in this partnership, which started five years ago between Tuzla Canton and Telemark District. They were later joined by Krajina Region and Vest Agder District, and the Vestfold District and Eastern Herzegovina region joined the project in 2003.

The Swiss RC has continued to provide valuable support to the RCSBiH branch development, as six more branches received funds for implementation of small scale projects in their communities in order to upgrade the Red Cross image in the community, to promote healthy life style and attract more volunteers for the work in the Red Cross activities.

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

In the reporting period, the Red Cross Youth was actively involved in organisation and participation of various summer camps held on local, regional or national level. The RCSBiH Youth attended camps in Serbia and Macedonia where they had opportunity to gain knowledge about first aid, home care, water rescuing, tracing, dissemination and intercultural exchange. There were four camps of international character (Tuzla, Sarajevo, Balkana and Kotor Varos) held in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the first three camps, the participants were Red Cross Youth members from the region (BiH, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and Macedonia), while the fourth one had a wider European dimension.



**Presentation at the International Youth Camp in Kotor Varos**

The camp in Kotor Varos, held between 19-29 August with financial support of the European Commission, achieved great success thanks to the excellent co-operation and enthusiasm of the RC Youth and professional staff from Vest Agder and Krajina. There were 49 participants from six European countries- 21 Red Cross Youth from Norway and Bosnia and Herzegovina and 7 representatives each from four organisations, namely, LUCK (France), Jovenes in Fronteras (Spain), Ufficio Scambini (Italy) and Youth Forum EYE (Macedonia). There were workshops/lectures on:

- International Humanitarian Law
- Conflict resolution
- Intercultural learning
- Non-violence communication
- Stop violence
- Youth participation
- Information Technology

In addition, an Internet café, as a way to create a meeting place for youth in Kotor Varos, was established during the camp, owing to the voluntary work of the participants of the camp. The purpose of such camps is, inter alia, to sow the seeds of multicultural exchanges, promote tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for cultural diversity and to endeavour to develop international understanding and co-operation among the youth.

18 RCSBiH Youth Clubs involved in "The observatory for promotion and protection of juvenile rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina", mark in the best way the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the rights of

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the Child. In close co-operation with the Italian NGO "Amici dei bambini", they are working on the survey which aims to define a juvenile population status. All data gathered in the survey will serve as a basis for design of future projects related to promotion and protection of juvenile rights in BiH. Contact persons in all 18 clubs have been trained and their offices equipped with computers and basic furniture.

### **Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships**

During the visit of the Head of the Regional Delegation to the RCSBiH headquarters, the main topics of discussion were further support to the NS in the core areas, as well as changing approach in the Federation's work with the National Societies in the region. The Regional Delegation is now looking for flexible ways of assisting the NSs with its expertise based on their requests, as its role switches from direct programme support to promoting networking and partnership, advocacy and knowledge sharing. It has been mainly achieved through regional meetings and workshops dealing with specific topics, like Fund-raising, Disaster management, Youth Development or Psychological support.

The Federation Country Representation Office works closely with the ICRC Delegation to BiH and partner national societies in order to strengthen the RCSBiH structures to be able to respond to the urgent needs of its population. The ICRC and Federation continue to share financial support to the RCSBiH headquarters and the Disaster Preparedness/Conflict Preparedness Programme.

In the reporting period, the Federation Office facilitated visits of several PNSs (Norwegian RC, Swedish, Austrian RC, German RC) to Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to discuss impact of their support on the RCSBiH development and possible support to the RCSBiH programmes in the forthcoming period.

As a result of the Federation's effort to promote and strengthen the partnership and co-operation among sister National Societies, the twinning co-operation between Norwegian RC and RCSBiH has been expanded to one more district/canton.

### **International Representation and Advocacy**

One of the members of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) from Bosnia and Herzegovina represented the RCSBiH at the Disaster Preparedness course in Macedonia held between 04-11 September. The course was organised jointly by Macedonian and Austrian RC and was focusing on the water purification unit.

In October, the RC First Aid Team (four youth members) from Krajina/Banja Luka attended a First Aid competition held in Vest Agder, Norway. They were observers at the competition where they had possibility to look from different angles to the work of rescue teams in life/health threatening situations and see new methods and practices that can be applied in their future work in the First Aid programme. Two branch secretaries (from Banja Luka and Gradiska) also attended the competition, and took that opportunity to discuss and plan further branch to branch twinning activities with their colleagues from Vest Agder District.

*[Please click here to return to the title page and contact information](#)*