

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

CENTRAL EUROPE

July 8, 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.

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In Brief

Appeal No. 01.75/2004; Programme Update no. 1, Period covered: 1 January 2004 to 30 June 2004;
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Appeal target: CHF 2,613,516 (USD 1,990,000 or EUR 1,680,000);

This appeal budget has been revised from CHF 2,613,516 to CHF 2,798,286 (revised appeal budget attached at the end of this report)

The revision consists of the following:

- Organisational Development from CHF 972,769 to CHF 1,472,435
- Disaster Management from CHF 416,897 to CHF 609,927
- Health and Care from CHF 482,866 to CHF 527,786
- Humanitarian Values from 0 to CHF 44,286

The main changes in the OD programme are CBF allocations towards Latvia RC change process (CHF 90,500) and Polish RC change process (CHF 125,000); Nordic-Baltic cooperation salary support to Latvia and Lithuania channelled via RD (CHF 33,000); and OD delegate position & regionally recruited officer - both 50% occupancy for 6 months until end of 2004. Changes in DM are due to inclusion of Population Movement activities in Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia & Montenegro until April (carry over from 2003 CHF 153,000) as well as extension of regional DM delegate position by 6 months with 50% occupancy and recruitment of sub-regional officer for the Baltics for 6 months until end of 2004. Health and Care includes extension of regional delegate until end of 2004. Humanitarian Values includes special edition of Bridge for 8 May and Youth campaign for HIV/Aids day on 1 December.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Kosovo Civil Violence Information Bulletins 1 and 2, Bosnia and Herzegovina floods (11/2004), Annual Appeals for Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo (01.74/2004) and , and Bosnia and Herzegovina (01.73/2004)

Programme summary:

The Regional Delegation (RD) for Central Europe, based in Budapest, covers fifteen National Societies: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia & Montenegro including Kosovo, Slovakia and Slovenia. There is a country delegation in Belgrade and Offices in Pristina and Sarajevo. The NS of Central Europe are called to respond to increasing and complex needs with limited resources and often heavy structures inherited from the past. The main function of the RD is to support the NS through advice and coordination of assistance as

well as developing and supporting networks and partnerships. The RD focuses on providing their staff and volunteers with new skills and tools to manage the organisation, to find resources, to respond to an upsurge of HIV/AIDS & TB, and to advocate on behalf of the marginalized and vulnerable. The main programmes are Health and Care, Disaster Management and Organisational Development.

In the area of Health and Care the focus is on HIV/AIDS & TB, First Aid and Road Safety, Psychological Support, Blood services and work with the aged. As the region is one where the spread of HIV/AIDS is among fastest in the world, prevention, harm reduction and awareness campaigns are a priority. ERNA and other networks as well as regional Task Forces (PSP, blood, social) are important channels to reach and involve all NS. Seven NS from the region are part of the Harm Reduction Plan of Action supported by the Italian RC, and the PSP Task Force just carried out a regional mapping of NS activities and needs in Psychological Support.

In Disaster Management development of national and regional DP plans are among the main objectives. The regional plan should be in place by end of the year, and 11 NS out of 15 have already completed a national plan. The Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT) are developed and equipped about 75%, but due to financial constraints it is unlikely that the planned data base can be realised as foreseen. Sub-regional cooperation is essential in crisis situations as recently happened in Kosovo. Good progress is being made in the Southern part of the region, where an agreement is about to be signed between Macedonia, Serbia & Montenegro and Bosnia Herzegovina. The Bosnia Herzegovina network also proved itself during the recent floods. Similar planning will be initiated in the Baltic NS during the second half of the year with support from the Norwegian RC.

In Organisational Development (OD) focus is on supporting Change Processes, in Financial and Resource development and in Branch Development. Three NS are being supported in making important changes in their structures and overall programming: the RC of Romania since last year and Latvia and Poland since January this year, with financial grants from the Capacity Building Fund (CBF) and support from various PNS. In the case of Romania the process has influenced not only the internal work of the NS but improved its public image as well. Developing Financial Management and Fundraising are an integral part of the OD processes, and often the need to develop these leads to a broader change process. Good progress can be seen in Bulgaria, Romania and Lithuania. Branch and Community Development Programmes using Participatory methods (PCD) are underway in Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia & Montenegro and Macedonia. While communities are actively at work, some constraints have been caused by the uncertainty and late arrival of funding for these projects. Limited support to Youth continues through the youth network, focusing on planning and materials for Candle March and Hunger Day campaigns.

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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 (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). 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

In mid March the tension in Kosovo erupted into violence. The operation became the subject of a separate Appeal, as did the flood operation in Bosnia Herzegovina in April (see above).

Eight of the 15 Central European countries covered by the Regional Delegation - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary - joined the EU in May 2004. The NS of these countries also became members of the RC/EU Office in Brussels and will in continuation be supported by that office in their interests with the EU institutions. However, as the RC/EU Office does not provide capacity building or technical assistance in the core areas, the Budapest RD will continue to work with these new EU state NS on programme and OD support during a transition period of eight months until end of 2004 – and in some long-term projects until end of 2005 or beyond. This support will focus on organisational and resource development as well as disaster management and health and care. From 2005 it is foreseen that the support for NS in the EU will be provided directly from the Europe department in Geneva, as is the case for Western Europe NS.

The decreasing funding available for the region affects the level of the support that can be provided to NS. In early 2004 the Federation structure in Central Europe consisted of the RD in Budapest (including a sub-regional DP office in the Balkans) and Country Delegations in Serbia and Montenegro and in Bosnia Herzegovina, as well as an Office in Kosovo. The Population Movement Office in Bosnia Herzegovina was closed down in the autumn of 2003 as was the Delegation in Macedonia. The Budapest RD also went down from some 21 staff in 2003 to 15 in 2004 as the positions of Programme Coordinator, Information Delegate, Youth Officer and EU Officer plus two administrative staff were discontinued. However, with support from the Finnish, Swedish and Norwegian RC, it was possible to extend the services of the Health and Care Delegate until July 2005 and the DM Delegate until end of 2004, with an added OD function for the latter, and to recruit a Sub-regional DM Coordinator for the Baltic NS as of July. The grants from the Federation Capacity Building Fund for the OD support of several NS also secured the services to these NS.

In the face of the changing realities in Europe and the new and different needs of the National Societies the RD is looking for flexible ways of working to provide the right type of expertise when required. It will increasingly switch from direct programme support to promoting networking and partnerships, to advocacy and knowledge sharing, and to facilitation of consultancies. Drawing upon the expertise from its Country Delegations / Offices as well as from the National Societies of the region and outside, the RD will create a Regional Team to provide tailor made support to Societies based on their requests.

1. Health and care

Goal: Contribute to further improvements in the overall health and social situation in Central Europe

Objective: To contribute to the establishment of effective and targeted national Red Cross health and care programmes that lead to reduced vulnerability to disease and accidents as well as addressing social exclusion through participation.

During the first half of the year the regional Health and Care programme continued to support the NS in Central Europe region building up the capacity of the NS and strengthening the networks and collaboration. The financial situation of the regional programme was fairly good due to the carry forward funding from 2003 and confirmed funding from the Swedish RC. In March the final decision was made to extend the contract of the regional Health and Care delegate for one year, until the end of July 2005.

Visits to the National Societies in Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Romania took place. The Global Health Retreat gathering for all health delegates was held in Geneva in mid March and proved to be a good forum to meet colleagues and share experiences. The Plan of Action and budget for Harm Reduction activities in Central Europe and Central Asia has been prepared in collaboration with the Health department at the Secretariat. Seven NS from Central Europe region will take part in the programme supported by the Italian RC.

Progress/achievements against expected results

Capacity of the National Societies in the region to deliver effective and sustainable HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB) prevention programmes will have been improved. Advocacy of humanitarian values will have been increased, reducing the stigma of people living with HIV/AIDS.

There have been two ERNA (European RC/RC Network of HIV/AIDS & TB) board meetings so far this year to discuss the Plan of Action and the budget for 2004 and there will be another one in Poland in September. (See: www.erna.sk). The UN representatives (UNHCR, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNDP, WHO) based in Bratislava participated at the first meeting where information concerning HIV/AIDS & TB was shared and further collaboration was established. A meeting with UNODC (UN Office on Drugs and Crime) was held in Vienna, pointing to the importance of further collaboration between institutions to respond to the increasing prevalence of HIV/AIDS, intravenous drug use in prisons and trafficking in human beings.

The Bulgarian RC submitted an interim report concerning its Drug Prevention programme that integrates young people of Bulgarian and Roma origin. The results are encouraging as the Roma youth are enthusiastic about having the opportunity to increase their knowledge in drug issues as well as Red Cross activities.

The Lithuanian RC held a seminar on HIV/AIDS prevention in Kaunas using interactive methods such as role-play, games and group work. Participants from Kaliningrad were present, thereby ensuring further collaboration between the NSs.

The Macedonian RC organised a seminar focusing on TB issues, using PCD methodology. In the Open Space event approximately 50 people participated, including TB patients and their next of kin, World Health Organisation, doctors and nurses working with TB. All parties present were extremely satisfied with the event and that TB patients were able to raise their voice and reduce stigma, at least in some respects. The experience from the Macedonian RC will be shared with other NS during the ERNA meetings.

The Italian RC has allocated funds for the Harm Reduction Programme in Eastern Europe. The planning has been completed with the Secretariat, Italian RC, regional Health and Care delegate and seven NS in the Central Europe region and eight NS in the Central Asia region. The participating NS (Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland) will be trained in Harm Reduction activities and implement these activities at national level.

The new EU NS, including Bulgaria and Romania, participated in the EU Road Safety Campaign 2003-2004. The closing event of the campaign was held on World Health Day (7 April 2004) with wide media coverage and launch of the Good Practice Guide, translated into 13 European languages. The campaign has strengthened the capacity of the NS in planning and implementing EU funded programmes and FA activities. The campaign also has increased collaboration between NSs. The call for proposals for the 3rd EU Road Safety campaign was launched in May, with the EU RC/RC Office preparing an application.

Following the recommendation of the meeting at the Reference Centre for Psychological Support (PS) work started on establishing a Task Force for PS in disasters. The six members of the team were chosen on the basis of their educational background, experience in PS and disaster management activities and commitment to their work. The objectives of the Task Force are to provide more qualified psycho(social) care to vulnerable groups after a disaster or in a crisis situation and promote the integration between programmes

The first meeting was held in March and the members agreed first to collect information about the ongoing PS activities in the region by visiting each National Society and interviewing the person in charge; then to work out a plan of action based on the results of the visits. The next meeting was held in June for the Task Force members to present their recommendations. The NS appreciated the initiative to scale up the PS issues in the region and the main areas of interest are further training for DM staff and volunteers and establishing a system for debriefing (Helping the Helpers). The Task Force members will continue contact with the NS respectively by informing the contact persons about current development of PS issues.

Capacity of National Societies in the region to promote voluntary non-remunerated blood donor recruitment will have improved, with the aim of contributing to safe blood supply.

The 9th International Colloquium on Voluntary Non-remunerated Blood Donation took place in April in Beijing, China. The Central European region was represented by the blood coordinators of Bulgarian Red Cross, Hungarian Red Cross and the regional Health and Care and Disaster Management assistant. The blood coordinator of Bulgarian Red Cross gave a presentation on the implementation of the Making a Difference on national level. The regional web site on voluntary non-remunerated blood donation was presented by the regional Health and Care and Disaster Management Assistant. The Polish Red Cross was also represented at the Colloquium.

The web site (<http://blood.ifrccee.org> or www.ifrccee.org named “blood program”) was launched in the second half of March.

Social Welfare programmes will have been improved to better meet human needs and ensure a better promotion and awareness of the well being of the population, especially vulnerable groups in the community.

The second part of the workshop on “Age Awareness” was held in February in Split, Croatia to review the implementation of activities since the first workshop and exchange information and ideas about the challenges which participants face in their work. The best-received part of the workshop was the field visit during which the participants together with Croatian Red Cross staff visited returnees in the countryside and interviewed them.

One of the main aims of the workshop was to encourage the participants to create an effective network so the third day was about what makes a network effective. The facilitators decided to apply Open Space methodology, which the participants were more or less familiar. The effectiveness of this session was questionable, as at the end of the one-hour session participants did not come to any agreement, concrete plan regarding Networking.

2. Disaster Management

The position of disaster management delegate in Budapest was due to end in mid May, but was extended till the end of 2004 on a 50 % basis. The delegate’s remaining time was assigned to the Organisational Development Programme.

Goal:

The efficiency and effectiveness of national societies in the region in their response to natural or man-made disasters is increased.

Objective:

Disaster response capacity of the national societies in the region is strengthened through the development of disaster preparedness plans and a regional disaster management strategy, including a contingency plan.

Expected Results:

By the end of 2004, all national societies in the region have disaster preparedness plans, including contingency plans, within their respective national contexts.

The following NS had the plans in place by the end of June 2004: Albanian RC, RC of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgarian RC, Croatian RC, Hungarian RC, Macedonian RC, Serbian and Montenegrin RC, Polish RC, Romanian RC, Slovakian RC and Slovenian RC.

Estonian RC, Latvian RC and Lithuanian RC will probably be ready by the end of 2004. In some National Societies such as Albania and Romania the work to up date the planning is going on. The Czech RC is working on the plan but will probably not be ready by the end of 2004. Please also see expected result 3 below.

By the end of 2004, a strategic regional disaster management plan – based on regional needs, opportunities and threats, outlining the specific roles and responsibilities of national societies – is in place. In addition, disaster response mechanisms are in place at the regional delegation enabling it to be ready for prompt action.

The final work on the plan is scheduled to take place 4th quarter 2004.

Close cooperation with the regional health and care, communication and organisational development programmes establishes a disaster management plan within national societies

See item 1 above. In the Disaster Preparedness plan for the National Societies for the future not only Disaster Management aspects are taken into consideration but also other programme aspects. This work is presently going on but will not be ready by the end of 2004.

By mid 2004, the regional disaster response team (RDRT) is staffed, trained and equipped, and a computerised regional database to track resources is established.

Neither RDRT nor computerised database will be ready by the end of 2004 due to lack of funds pledged to the RD.

The present situation is that RDRT is staffed to 75 % of the anticipated goal (60 team-members). The positive thing is that all registered RDRT members are trained and roughly three quarters have participated in follow up training.

If the funding situation is not improved the database will not be completed by the end of the year.

A disaster management programme for the southern sub-region is running throughout 2004 providing continued support to national societies in their work with the Stability Pact DPPI.

The DM coordinator has continued to represent the Federation in the DPPI during 2004 and participated in an Advisory Board meeting in May in Brussels and a Regional Meeting in April. At these meetings the ongoing projects are reported and new projects are presented. Of special interest for the Federation presently is a Flood Project under preparation by the Hungarian Directorate for Emergency Response and the Hungarian Red Cross. This project will be finalised in September and presented during the Regional Meeting scheduled to take place early October.

The sub-regional DM coordinator based in BiH participated in the regional DPPI meeting in April and the plan is that she will continue to represent the Federation in this kind of meetings in the future when the regional DM delegate leaves by the end of 2004. The representation in the DPPI advisory board will then be taken over by the Head of Regional Delegation

Within the framework of DPPI an exercise on Joint fire-fighting units was held in Montenegro in May to improve preparedness and response to open fires in coastal area, regardless of national borders, with joint rapid fire-fighting response units from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro. Within the framework of the project eight Emergency Response Teams were formed and 72 fire fighters trained and equipped. Civil Protection from all three countries was present during the exercise.

Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro is still fighting for its position within the disaster preparedness and response system in its country. Disaster Management activities is the responsibility of republics and there is no common body at state level. The DM coordinators of the NS have done a lot of efforts to present its activities to the relevant authorities in last two years. Good cooperation has already been established in Serbia while in Montenegro this process is a bit slow due to the unclear situation that is responsible for disaster preparedness and response in that republic - Civil Protection or Ministry of Interior.

Co-operation within the Central Europe Region

The Regional delegation in Budapest organised a regional DM meeting in April for DM co-ordinators from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Bulgaria, Czech republic, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro and Romania. The following topics were discussed: how do the NSs see their cooperation after 2004 when the Budapest RD pulls out from the EU countries; co-operation with Civil Protection and other Governmental agencies; future possibilities for funding of DM; common and separate trainings in the region during 2004 and 2005; future of the RDRT and Contingency plan on Nuclear Power plant accidents. A similar meeting was organised in Riga for the Baltic countries earlier in April.

DM co-ordinators presented DM activities in their countries during the last six months and shared information on the Croatian RC fund-raising and Serbia and Montenegro RC in-kind donation for Bam earthquake victims, Kosovo crises, floods in BiH, Albania VCA and the co-operation between Bulgaria and Montenegro during the rescuing of Bulgarian children in traffic accident in Montenegro. BiH prepared and presented the Cooperation agreements

between DM departments that would improve the cooperation between NSs within the region in case of disaster. NSs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro will sign a Cooperation Agreement between DM departments soon. Th

DM coordinators from the neighbouring countries offered their help to their colleagues in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro during the floods in BiH and crisis in Kosovo. DM coordinator from Macedonia produced DM Manual that was highly appreciated by RD and the DM colleagues from other NSs of the region. The manual has been translated from Macedonian into English language and will be distributed within the CE Region. The creation of this manual is the result of knowledge and information sharing between DM coordinators during the regular sub-regional DM meetings that have taken place during 2000 - 2004.

A disaster management programme for the northern sub-region is running from April 2004 establishing contacts with relevant programmes within the EU.

The Norwegian Red Cross has agreed to fund the position as sub-regional DM coordinator 50 % as of July 1, 2004 till the end of the year. There are indications that there are good funding possibilities for 2005 as well.

The job-description was decided upon in a sub-regional DM meeting in Riga, Latvia in April and discussions regarding the selection of the final candidate took place during the partnership meeting in Ljubljana between the Secretaries General of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania Red Cross and the DM delegate. Based on this the regional delegation selected the candidate from Lithuanian Red Cross and this person will take up his position as of July 1.

By the end of 2004, a disaster management network is in place in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The creation of a disaster management network in Bosnia and Herzegovina started in 2001 as part of the regional DM programme. Since then the development has been great and the basic parts of the network is now in place. The most encouraging part of the programme is that there is a very good cooperation between the two entities of BiH.

The set-up was in a way tested during some floods in BiH affecting 48 municipalities or about 300,000 people. Around 5,000 houses were flooded and several hundred families had to be evacuated from their homes. The floods damaged 20,000 hectares with crops and washed away several bridges. The traffic was temporarily halted due to landslides and water that partially flooded the main roads. The water flooded water-wells and broke into the water network system, which resulted in the water being polluted and not fit for drinking. The sewage overflows contaminated wells that inhabitants of the affected areas rely on for their water supply. There is great concern that land mines laid during the war may have been washed away by the floods and appear in previously land mine-clean areas.

Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina undertook immediate action to save lives and property by mobilising all available human and material resources. Around 360 Red Cross volunteers helped with the evacuation and distribution of food and water to the affected population. Local Red Cross branches released and distributed the limited emergency stocks of basic relief items to the most vulnerable.

During the first week of the disaster, daily reports on the current situation, compiled from the information received from the field, were submitted to the National Society, the International Federation and other relevant institutions and organizations. Press conferences were organized and the media were informed about activities of direct relief distribution to beneficiaries.

This operation showed improved the cooperation between Red Cross branches and authorities on the municipal level and cooperation between the Entities' Red Cross branches. It also defined roles and responsibilities of the different actors (communities, local authorities, national and international organizations) in case of disaster. The capacity of the RCSBiH in disaster management was strengthened.

3. Humanitarian Values

This section has been incorporated into section no 5 as it was for the Appeal 2004.

4. Organisational Development

Goal: The NSs have increased capacity to manage and organise their programmes, resources and structures to enable them to function well and fulfill their NS mission

4.1 Governance and Management

Objective:

The national societies successfully implement the planned change processes, upgrade their capacities in governance and management and service delivery, and enhance their public image.

During the first half of 2004, the focus has been on the finalizing the planning phase of the change processes with the Latvian and Polish Red Cross. The reorganization and development plans were submitted to the Capacity Building Fund at the beginning of the year and have received funding for the first year of a multi-year process. A detailed plan of action and budget were agreed with the Latvian RC during a kick-off steering committee meeting in May and activities have begun within the planned framework. The next six months will see a focus on fundraising and public relations, with the establishment of a fundraising committee, the development of a fundraising strategy and preparations for a public image survey.

A plan of action and budget is being finalized with the Polish Red Cross and should be ready for the kick-off steering meeting at the beginning of July. Support has continued to the Romanian Red Cross change process, with regular steering committee meetings being used as a forum to discuss any problems arising or imminent and to look for solutions. An annual report was issued by the Romanian RC for the first time and launched publicly at a press conference in April. This has helped to enhance the public image of the Romanian RC and reflects its commitment to the change process.

Expected Results:

The skills of national society staff and volunteers in planning, project management and reporting are improved and programmes are adjusted to better respond to new vulnerabilities and needs

Activities within the change processes have been agreed and will begin during the second half of 2004 to improve planning, project management and reporting skills at branch level of the Latvian RC. A training of trainers on branch level governance was held in May, facilitated by a team from the OD Department in Geneva and piloting a new governance handbook. The training materials will be adapted and courses run by the trained Latvian RC staff for branches late summer and early autumn.

National societies revise and update their statutes as needed and modify their structures to suit their new roles and services as well as resources.

Early in 2004, the RD supported the Latvian Red Cross with the revision of its statutes, which were adopted at a general assembly in April. Activities within the CBF-supported reorganization and development project will build on this initial legal status work. New regulations are being developed, particularly relating to human resource management, to support the governance and management needs, and following the statutory changes.

Regional networks and sharing of best practices are strengthened; a regional pool of expertise is set up.

The Regional Delegation is supporting the national Societies involved in the change processes directly through its full time OD/RD team, but also by managing the regional pool of expertise. Consultants with expertise in fundraising, financial management and public relations have been identified and have already been involved in supporting the Romanian RC in specific programme areas. The pool continues to develop and the Regional Delegation is coordinating consultancy work and contributions to the Latvian and Polish RC change processes. One financial management consultant will be a member of the steering committee for the Polish RC project. The national societies involved in the change processes have requested an opportunity to listen to each other's experiences so far and to identify where they can help each other in terms of resources, materials or advice. The RD has submitted a project to the CBF to support an experience exchange meeting for the Romanian, Polish and Latvian RC.

4.2. Financial Management and Financial Resource Development

Objective:

The ability of the National Societies to handle their finances in a more transparent and accountable manner and to find more diversified and sustainable funding is improved.

Expected Result(s)

National Societies have new financial management systems in place and financial management skills of personnel are enhanced

Bulgarian Red Cross has accomplished the second phase of upgrading their financial management system and enhancing financial management skills of their accountants thanks to the British Red Cross contribution. As a result of that, Bulgarian RC has an electronically integrated accounting system, which is applied throughout the whole organization. The same financial and accounting practice applies in all branches of the NS. The NS was able to produce for the first time an overall balance sheet for the year 2003, early this year. NS claims that the new system contributes to making adequate and fast managerial decisions.

Romanian Red Cross aim is to have a transparent financial system, which would provide efficient support to the programmes and activities of the Romanian Red Cross. Thanks to the CBF contribution, Romanian RC has managed to develop financial management procedures, including the unified charts of accounts that are now being disseminated across the NS.

Lithuanian Red Cross has finished computerisation of the bookkeeping system at its headquarters level thanks to the RD support. This is an important step that has allowed Lithuanian RC to have a modern system of data processing that is much more economical as it significantly saves time that was so far used on manual processing. At the same time, this gives opportunity to the economical department of the NS to focus more on the fundraising efforts.

Fundraising skills of the National Society personnel are enhanced

Regional FR workshop held in April, in Budapest gathered 13 fundraisers from the NS of Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Slovenia. This was the beginning of the regional experience and knowledge sharing pool that that should help NS in the region to diversify their own income sources. Fundraising experience and skills of different NS in the region came out during this gathering and inspired those present to consider similar approaches in their own countries.

Presentation on corporate social responsibility and experience in work with the Hungarian Red Cross, by general director of Henkel Hungary, inspired the participants to consider cooperation with the company's offices in their own countries. Henkel's general director from Budapest welcomed the idea and promised support from their side. This cooperation will need good will, as well as effort in joint planning and maintaining of the relationship from both Henkel's and regional NS' sides in order to bring significant results.

Romanian RC strives to have a more diversified funding base, which will provide long-term sustainability to the Romanian RC. Thanks to the CBF support, fundraising strategy and plan of action were finalized and submitted to the Governing Board for approval, while the plans are made for the national fundraising campaign to start later this year. Contacts with several recognized business companies in Bucharest have been established aiming at concluding long-term cooperation agreements. On the other hand, Romanian RC still does not have new donors that are contributing to the NS. The Fundraising officer has left the NS and recruitment of the new one is underway.

Lithuanian Red Cross has accomplished their fundraising campaign "Help us to help" that aimed at mobilizing working population of Lithuania to allocate 2% of their income tax to the Red Cross. Lithuanian RC was very prompt in using this opportunity that has appeared in Lithuania for the first time. All the levels of the organization took an active part in the process: board members, staff and youth volunteers. Final result of the camping will be known in October this year, after the tax office of Lithuania processes all the data. However, Lithuanian RC estimates that 6,500 individuals supported with EUR 84,000. This is the first significant effort of the Lithuanian RC to attract national funds from the individuals.

An active regional network of National Society fundraisers is established

See previous objective.

4.3 Branch and Community Development

At the end of March, the Participatory Community Development coordinator who had been with the programme for the past three years and had overseen its development left. A temporary coordinator has been in contact with the national coordinators and with the Norwegian Red Cross, the programme's main donor through Norwegian government funds.

Objective:

Participatory Community Development is known and used as a tool for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for their community based projects globally.

Expected Results:

The second round of PCD implementation is finished by April 2004 in Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia and Montenegro and Macedonia.

The second round of PCD was under the plan of action for 2003 and therefore funded from the 2003 pledge, which was extended up to the end of April 2004. The first six months of 2004 have seen projects carried out with communities in the four countries as part of the second round of PCD. As a result of the Regional Delegation's Appeal for 2004, an application was made to the Norwegian government by the Norwegian RC for funding for these countries to continue PCD for a further year. As yet a decision has not been made, but is expected in July.

In Bulgaria the April target for concluding the second round was met and the next stage is for an evaluation to be conducted over the summer. All communities reported some positive developments as a result of the participatory process or the results of the projects. For example in the village of Mramoren in Vratza region a team called "Children-Our Tomorrow" worked on improving the poor conditions in the local kindergarten that lead to health risks for the children and meant some families did not send their children. Another team, "Nature-Our Life", cleared small bushes, dry branches and other waste in the village park and children and their parents then planted new trees. A Green Patrol of four children was formed to protect the park and make daily visits to plant flowers. Similar community initiative was reported in Stamboliiski, a village where the lack of facilities was leading to migration of young people from the village to towns and to other countries.

In Karnobat, the Opening Community Meeting saw at first hand the very deep problems of the community. The story of an old woman having to carry her grandchild on her back down the hill to attend the school because of the poor condition of the road led to the "Our street" project. Despite support from the municipality it is taking more time to organize the competition for a company to conduct the repairs of the street.

In other areas, namely Mramoren, Stamboliiski and Lyuliatzite the community has shown great appreciation for the work done so far, as it is a first time somebody has asked the people's opinion and for their participation. The communities have been involved and support has been forthcoming from authorities and media.

Participatory Community Development was implemented in six Red Cross Branches in Macedonia: Veles, Kocani, Strumica, Prilep, Cair-Skopje and Gazi Baba-Skopje. New premises were used to run courses on a variety of topics. In Gazi Baba, Skopje the social-educational club, "Open Spectrum" looked at ecological issues then put this knowledge into practical application by going out into the local environment and tidying it up. In Prilep, craft training was given to hairdressers, tailors and wood carpenters. The Club for young humanists in Veles provided training about the Red Cross Movement and Health and Social Welfare activities to help young people from socially disadvantaged families integrate into the community.

In Cair, the "health in our family" project printed health education material about diseases and their prevention in Macedonia, Roma and Albanian languages. Education was organized for self-supporting and young mothers on good health, family planning and how to prevent diseases in the family.

The coordination of the PCD coordinators in the branches in this period was problem free. Many visits were made to the communities where the micro projects were implemented in order to follow the progress. The programme enabled a sense of joint work of all members in the community to develop. The PCD project as a development tool will be introduced in other Macedonian RC programmes such as health, disaster management in the future. The implementation of the project has improved the image of the national society in the country.

In Hungary, the programmes started in 2003 were finished, although the Hungarian Red Cross continues to support the communities involved. The first half of the year has seen projects on the reintegration of the long-term unemployed by training, improving the hygiene conditions of a Roma settlement, health education and leisure time activities for youngsters.

One programme that started in 2004 is in Tatárszentgyörgy was requested after they had consulted another community eight kilometres away where similar projects had been run. The population of Tatárszentgyörgy is 1,881 and the major challenges are insufficient parental responsibility and community cohesion. The aim of the programme is to improve the quality of life by raising knowledge levels and includes development programmes for children, cooking and sewing clubs for adults and free of charge summer camp on Lake Balaton for thirty children.

As a result of the annual evaluation meetings, communities are making more and more direct contacts and networking among themselves. The Sarud and Örkény communities are most frequently consulted about their experiences that could be adapted by other settlements. For example Váralja branch is asking Örkény about the micro-project on laundry-facilities; Encs-Fügöd approaches Sarud to learn more about resources and grant possibilities.

The PCD programme contributes to community based social and health-education programmes and promotes social inclusion. It contributes to organisational development both in terms of quality and quantity. By creating a vision, it provides new skills and increases membership and the level of organisation of the Hungarian Red Cross.

The PCD Project, Second Round in Serbia and Montenegro started in January 2004. Three municipalities were selected: Mladenovac (Serbia), Valjevo (Serbia) and Bar (Montenegro). In Mladenovac the programme is dedicated to Roma population in the part of the town where they are living. In Valjevo targeted group will be Roma population living in the suburbs of the town. In Bar, the target group is the Roma community displaced from Kosovo and Metohija, with status of Internal Displaced persons (IDP's).

PCD Training was held in each location following the new Manual and Tool Kit for PCD implementers (see following expected result). The results are very good and all of Team members showed great interest. In all RC branches the three Teams made concrete local plans of action and planned that activities would be finished before the end of April, at which point three micro projects would be presented. This aim proved unrealistic and the new expected time is the end of July.

There were no negative effects and an evaluation has shown that people are attracted with this methodology of joint work. It can be said that even though the project is not finished yet, the great benefit for the Red Cross can be seen. People believe in Red Cross and it will be a benefit regarding the role and position of RC in all municipalities. A special case happened in the city of Bar, where PCD is running among internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija. The Roma population was accepted by their relatives and Bar Municipality as well as by local authorities, but they stressed that only real help and support were received by Red Cross of Bar.

In Mladenovac a pre fabricated house will be used as a Roma kindergarten and other educational and social activities for people of all ages. The sports play ground in the part of Valjevo where most Roma people live will be used by children, the Roma football club and the traditional Music Summer festival of ethnic music and traditional music. A former warehouse in Bar will be adapted for education of Roma IDP children who are, for the most part not going to school. Presently, all RC branches are organizing official offers and expect that in the first half of July all Micro Projects will have started. If everything goes to plan, Micro Projects would be finished at the end of July.

The twinning pilot PCD is continuing between the Hungarian and the Romanian RC supported by the regional delegation.

The twinning programme was supported by regular exchange of views by email and discussion about joint future programmes by both the Hungarian RC coordinator and the Regional Delegation coordinator. Both attended a working group in Hargita in May where the community was beginning the steps. Although there were some problems encountered due to incomplete preparation and false expectations, cooperation will continue.

Two additional National Societies will implement a PCD programme in Central Europe region.

This expected result has not been achieved, although the Albanian Red Cross expressed interest early in the year. A meeting was held between the temporary regional PCD coordinator and the Albanian Red Cross Secretary General about starting the preparatory steps of PCD during the Partnership Meeting in May. The Appeal for 2005 will again contain a reference to new National Societies starting PCD, as it is clear that there is an interest and a need from National Societies.

The existing PCD facilitators' network is reinforced and expanded to a well functioning worldwide network .

To a large extent this was already achieved prior to the start of the year. The departure of the regional PCD coordinator gave an unexpected opportunity to test the PCD network in the sense that the temporary coordinator received helpful support from the network. This was not only in the prompt sending of reports, but also in practical information about the development of PCD in each country.

Trained PCD consultants are available in Central Europe region.

The PCD package that has been in preparation over the previous year has been handed to a team consisting of two experienced Red Cross people who will ensure that the material is user friendly and conveys the PCD methodology and Red Cross principles.

With interest having been shown in introducing PCD in other National Societies in the region, it is very likely that the national PCD coordinators will be used in a consultancy capacity.

4.4 Regional Youth Development Programme**Objective**

The existing regional youth network is strengthened through meetings and learning from each other's approaches.

The Regional Youth Development Programme closed at the end of 2003, with the departure of the regional youth officer. Although there is a focal point for youth issues within the Regional Delegation, this is not a full time position, and 2004 will be decisive in seeing how the youth network can continue to provide a service to its members in a very different setting.

Expected Results**The 7th Central European regional youth conference will be organized in May 2004**

The 7th Central European regional youth conference took place in Budapest from 22-25 April, with 14 National Societies from the region taking part. Following a preparatory workshop in December, the preparation team successfully coordinated the organization of the conference. A number of key issues were discussed during the two day conference including funding, current campaigns and how best to continue regional youth work.

International Trainers Team members act as trainers in various activities conducted within Central Europe.

During the conference the need for support to national societies in organizing the two regional campaigns – Hunger Day and the Candle March in support of anti-stigma and discrimination – was discussed. It is expected that the 10 youth sections in the region, who have already participated in these campaigns, can support the other youth sections who will be involved in these campaigns for the first time in 2004.

National society youth sections benefit from access to relevant information.

The regional RYDP web site continues and discussions were held during the 2004 youth conference about how this can be used as resource now that there is no longer one person responsible for updating it.

Programme related networking and cooperation initiatives are supported

The future of the Common Statement – a regional youth initiative to support youth sections in volunteer, best practice, materials and ideas exchange – was discussed during the 2004 youth conference. It was agreed to continue the initiative and the Statement was signed by the national societies pledging to support exchanges during 2004. A further Common Statement for 2005 is planned to be discussed and signed during the European Cooperation Meeting to be held in Vienna in 2005. The initiative was also promoted at the Central Europe Partnership Meeting held in Ljubljana in May 2004.

4.5 European Union Integration Support

Objective:

The capacity of National Societies to be part of a network with their EU partners and with other representatives of civil society is improved, allowing them to benefit from existing knowledge and experiences, especially in obtaining EU funds

Up until May of this year the Regional Delegation had a full time member of staff devoted to supplying the NS of the region with information about how their countries membership of the European Union would affect Red Cross work.

One of the main opportunities is that of funding from the European Commission. This is a daunting prospect as the application process is far from simple and takes a large investment of time and resources. To try to explain and demystify EU funding, the Red Cross EU Office ran a training course for NS from EU member states, both old and new. The EU officer also attended and has been subsequently able to provide information to the Hungarian Red Cross and the Romanian Red Cross on funding sources from the Commission.

5. Coordination, Advocacy and Humanitarian Values

This section reflects the integration of humanitarian values, advocacy and coordination functions in a smaller regional delegation in 2004. For this reason there are no separate texts under section 3 (humanitarian values) and section 6 (international representation). This follows the structure of the Central Europe Appeal 2004.

Objective: The role of Central European National Societies in voicing and responding to the needs of the most vulnerable groups in the region is recognised, supported and strengthened.

Expected Results:

National Societies are recognised as prominent actors in the strengthening of civil society, and as dialogue partners on national and regional vulnerability issues. They enjoy good relations with the government reinforcing their role and mandate and resulting in support for programmes and policy objectives.

This is a very difficult area to measure, and indicators need to be established. The RD is increasingly been asked to support NS in their relations with the respective governments, often to obtain financial support but also to profile themselves as serious partners in Disaster Management or Health. DM partnerships are quite well developed in the Southern part of the region, where this work has been focussed until recently. New partnerships are being formed in Health as result of work on Global Fund applications (Romania, Macedonia). There are also many good partnerships on local level, connected with programmes in Health, Disaster Management and Participatory Community Development.

The Red Cross is recognised as a reliable partner and independent source of information on humanitarian issues for the media.

The RD capacity in this area is very limited as the Information delegate position was discontinued at the end of 2003. Some work done in the area of OD has had the effect of raising the profile of NS, thus making it credible for the media.

Two trips were planned to the Romania in March and in May, but the one in March failed due to the visa problems. The trip in May included a press conference on May 5 that covered Red Cross Day and its main topic "Fight against discrimination"; the launch of the first Romanian RC Annual report; and the results of the Romanian RC public image survey. National and Bucharest media were present and the Romanian RC got good coverage in the press, radio and TV. Results and steps forward were discussed with the key-people in the HQ.

Knowledge sharing between Central European Societies and with other regions is increased and networking is further strengthened and expanded.

Promotion of knowledge sharing is one of the main functions of the RD. Much of it takes the form of meetings or seminars around specific topics. Regional workshops have been organised during the first half of 2004 in the following areas: Psychological support (March and June), Fund-raising (April), Youth Conference (April), Disaster Management (April). In May the Central Europe Partnership meeting took place in Ljubljana, hosted by the Slovenian Red Cross. This was a major experience sharing event, with discussions and presentations from NS

focussed on Change processes (Romanian RC), Fundraising (Regional seminar feed-back), Roma (Serbian RC), HIV/AIDS (Polish RC) & TB (Macedonian RC) and Human Trafficking (Bulgarian RC).

In addition, representatives of the RD have been attending the European Public Support Group meeting in Vienna in March, ERNA meetings in Bratislava in January and in Rome in May, UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna in April, the Stability Pact DPPI in May in Brussels. National Societies. National Society representatives have also actively shared their experiences (Polish RC at AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Lithuanian RC with Russian RC on Drug prevention programme in Kaunas, Macedonian RC Open Space workshop on TB issues with WHO).

While the experience from participating in and supporting networks is predominantly positive, it must also be recognised that networks require a lot of support in order to function effectively. As long as there is permanent infrastructure (ERNA) it works quite well, but when the networks depend solely on NS volunteers (social network, youth) it is much more demanding to keep them going.

The Regional Delegation had a representative at the first meeting of the Red Cross Response to Human Trafficking, hosted by the Danish Red Cross. It was decided during this meeting that Human Trafficking is very much a problem that the Red Cross should address given that it preys upon and exacerbates vulnerability. The meeting, attended by representatives from NS from across Europe, also highlighted the cross regional nature of the problem and therefore the need for a common Red Cross response. The Regional Delegation will bring the issue to the attention of the public and NSs in Central Europe and encourage them to join in the Red Cross cooperation initiative.

Regional resources are effectively and efficiently used to respond to regional needs, and strategic partnerships with government, UN agencies, organisations and authorities provide a basis for more effective resource management and mobilisation and benefit National Societies.

The RD is increasingly relying on consultants from the region – from NS as well as outside – to complement the expertise sought by NS in areas such as resource mobilisation, financial management and change management. Strategic partnerships with the Civil Defence and local authorities are developed in Disaster Preparedness and Health, as well as in PCD on community level. New funding sources from EU and agencies such as IOM are being explored.

Two communication sessions were conducted during the first regional work-shop for fund-raisers in April. Hand-out materials were distributed to participants and presentations and photos submitted for CD-Rom.

Advocacy materials are made available to various partners, agencies, organisations and authorities.

Special Issue of The Bridge, Central European edition for May 8, was prepared in February-March, printed in April and sent out to the National Societies and partners to be used during Red Cross Day celebrations in May and further during the year. After discussions with the Head of delegation and the RD Finance manager, proposals were sent to three National Societies (Hungary, Poland, Romania) to translate this issue of The Bridge into their national languages with the financial support from the RD. Romanian and Polish NSs responded immediately accepting the proposal. The Polish RC did not to change anything, and the Romanian RC will put their own articles on page 7.

While still a draft the PCD (participatory community development) toolkit has been well received by different counterparts. Another significant contribution in advocacy materials in 2004 will be the posters and CDs to be produced in the autumn for the Youth Candle March campaign for the HIV/AIDS day 1 December. The planning for this is underway with representatives of Youth network.

6. International Representation

This section has been incorporated under section 5 as it was for the Appeal.

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BUDGET SUMMARY

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 01.75/2004

Name: Central Europe Regional Programmes

PROGRAMME:

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & textiles	0	2,100	0	0	0	0	2,100
Food	0	9,900	0	0	0	0	9,900
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teaching materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	1,260	0	0	0	0	1,260
Other relief supplies	0	27,000	0	317,976	0	0	344,976
SUPPLIES	0	40,260	0	317,976	0	0	358,236
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	0	0	0	162,016	0	0	162,016
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	6,000	0	0	0	0	6,000
CAPITAL EXPENSES	0	6,000	0	162,016	0	0	168,016
Warehouse & Distribution	0	4,000	0	0	0	0	3,999
Transport & Vehicules	16,180	37,480	0	25,628	0	0	79,288
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	16,180	41,480	0	25,628	0	0	83,287
Programme Support	34,306	39,645	2,879	95,708	9,350	0	181,888
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	34,306	39,645	2,879	95,708	9,350	0	181,888
Personnel-delegates	138,000	86,400	0	96,100	26,278	0	346,777
Personnel-national staff	34,650	148,300	0	261,712	20,950	0	465,612
Consultants	0	50,000	18,000	74,859	7,300	0	150,159
PERSONNEL	172,650	284,700	18,000	432,671	54,528	0	962,548
W/shops & Training	156,450	118,940	0	266,100	42,000	0	583,490
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	156,450	118,940	0	266,100	42,000	0	583,490
Travel & related expenses	61,000	28,340	0	61,592	0	0	150,932
Information	77,000	2,322	18,000	54,800	30,900	0	183,022
Other General costs	10,200	48,240	5,408	55,944	7,073	0	126,865
GENERAL EXPENSES	148,200	78,902	23,408	172,336	37,973	0	460,819
TOTAL BUDGET:	527,786	609,927	44,287	1,472,435	143,851	0	2,798,286