

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

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In Brief

Appeal No. 01.75/2004; Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: July-December, 2004; Appeal coverage: 88.1 % (*Please click here to go directly to the contributions list*)

Appeal Target: CHF 2,798,286 (USD 2,453,985 or EUR 1,812,740) During the last quarter of 2004, operational budgets were revised in line with expected expenditures and income to the end of the year, but the appeal budget remained unchanged.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

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

Central Europe Annual Appeal 2004 Programme Update no.1 (For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/01750401.pdf)

Kosovo Crisis (For all the reports on the Kosovo Crisis, please see the website at

<http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?iYear=0&xFlag=2&countryid=11&view=1>)

Bosnia and Herzegovina Floods Emergency Appeal (For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?04/1104.pdf)

Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo) Annual Appeal 2004 (For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/017404.pdf)

Bosnia and Herzegovina Annual Appeal 2004 (For details, please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/017304.pdf)

Programme Summary

The Regional Delegation (RD) for Central Europe, based in Budapest, covers fifteen National Societies (NS): 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. In addition, there is a country delegation in Belgrade and Offices in Pristina and Sarajevo. The NSs of Central Europe are responding to the 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 NSs through advice and coordination of assistance, as well as developing and supporting networks and partnerships. The RD focuses on providing NS staff and volunteers with new skills and tools to manage the organisation, to find resources, to respond to an upsurge of HIV/AIDS & tuberculosis (TB), and to advocate on behalf of the marginalized and vulnerable. The main programmes supported 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 (PSP), Blood services and work with the aged. As the region is one where the spread of HIV/AIDS is among the fastest in the world, prevention, harm reduction and awareness campaigns are a priority. European Network of Red Cross/Red Crescent on HIV/AIDS (ERNA) and other networks, as well as regional Task Forces

(PSP, blood, social) are important channels to reach and involve all NSs. Seven NSs from the region are part of the Harm Reduction Plan of Action supported by the Italian Red Cross, and the PSP Task Force has carried out a regional mapping of NS activities and needs in Psychological Support.

In Disaster Management, the development of national and regional Disaster Preparedness (DP) plans are among the main objectives. The regional plan is based on the use of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT), and 11 NSs out of 15 have already completed a national plan. In addition, sub-regional cooperation is essential in crisis situations. Progress in the Southern part of the region, led by the sub-regional coordinator based in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has resulted in an agreement between Macedonia, Serbia & Montenegro and Bosnia Herzegovina and the networking has proved itself effective on several occasions, dealing with flooding. A similar set up has been initiated in the Baltic sub region, with a part time coordinator based with the Lithuanian Red Cross and funded by the Norwegian Red Cross.

In Organisational Development (OD) the focus is on supporting Change Processes, in Financial and Resource development and in Branch Development. Three NSs 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 Participating National Societies (PNSs). In the case of Romania, the process has influenced not only the internal work of the NS, but has also improved its public image. 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 (such as Participatory Community Development) are underway in Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia & Montenegro and Macedonia. Limited support to Youth continued through the youth network, focusing on support 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. 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

One key theme running through the last six months of the year has been the transition process for the eight National Societies (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary) in countries which joined the European Union on 1 May 2004, preparing to leave the umbrella of the Regional Delegation on 1 January 2005. The Regional Team has focused on mapping the technical services and on support the National Societies have prioritised as areas where continued support is required. This will be met either through the Red Cross/European Union Office in Brussels – concerning European Union issues – or the Europe Department and technical support departments in Geneva – concerning programme and OD support - as is the case for Western Europe NSs.

The appeal coverage is currently 88.1 percent. The main donors are the Swedish Red Cross, Swedish government, Norwegian Red Cross and Norwegian government, the Federation's Capacity Building Fund, Finnish Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross and British Red Cross. Funding gaps in the disaster management, health and care and organizational development programmes during the second half of the year led to revisions of the operational budgets with an impact on activity levels and achievement of objectives. Although a delayed response to funding

applications to the Norwegian government eventually came through in November, priorities had to be reconsidered and some projects and activities were cancelled or delayed. These included:

- Regional Disaster Response Team training within the disaster management programme
- Blood donor recruitment activities
- Psychological support activities within the health and care programme
- Funding for the position of the regional OD Coordinator, as it continues to be problematic to secure

The added value of having flexible, non earmarked funding confirmed early in the year - Swedish government and Red Cross funding - is clear in the activity implementation and service provision context. Within the two new programmes linked to change processes, and supported by the Capacity Building Fund, in the Polish and Latvian Red Cross, over optimistic planning has led to some activities being delayed until the New Year. Although the Regional Delegation had not planned any further editions of The Bridge magazine, remaining funds, together with an emerging interest in the RC response to the issue of human trafficking, led to the Bridge being revived and extra funds requested and found, principally from the British Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Croatian Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to support another edition.

Expenditure projected to the end of the year stands at CHF 2,769,625. The remaining balance, an estimated CHF 548,000, will be transferred to support the continuation of activities in 2005, enabling priority activities to take place at the beginning of the year during a period traditionally slow for receiving hard pledges. The Regional Team is currently identifying possibilities to diversify funding sources to support NS programmes, by tapping into global opportunities – for example World Bank, European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA) and Council of Europe funding mechanisms - using the added value of its regional presence.

1. Health and care

Goal: The National Societies in Central Europe region are viable partners of their respective authorities in improving the health and social situation.

Objective: Through the Regional Delegation's promotion of knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices, the capacities of the national societies will be increased in implementing HIV/AIDS, TB and drug prevention, providing sustainable social welfare, promoting voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation and providing sustainable community based first aid, including psychological support.

During the second half of the 2004, the regional Health and Care (H&C) programme continued to support the NSs in the Central Europe region, building up the capacity of the NSs and strengthening the networks and collaboration.

Visits went ahead to the National Societies in Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and to the Red Cross in Kosovo. Meetings with the Europe Department/Health Department were held in Geneva in order to discuss the handover of the continuing Federation support to the new European Union (EU) NSs by the end of 2004. Discussions during visits to most of the new EU NSs were constructive and raised their concern about the future without support from the Regional Delegation. The Plan of Action and budget for Harm Reduction activities in Central Europe and Central Asia has been agreed and shared with the participating NSs from Central Europe region.

The planning for joint activities within the H&C and Participatory Community Development (PCD) programmes started in August, with the appointment of a new PCD Coordinator. The aim is to strengthen the community based approach by using PCD methodology with H&C programmes.

NSs in the Central Europe region have expressed their concern about the problems related to the trafficking of human beings: what is the NS role in responding to these problems on an individual and community level? The PCD Coordinator and H&C delegate met with the Health Officer of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Budapest. A desire to increase collaboration was expressed on both sides – on a practical level by involving NS staff / volunteers in training seminars on human trafficking organised by the IOM.

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.

The NSs in Central Europe have made significant progress in their HIV/AIDS, TB and Drug Prevention activities, focusing increasingly on the issues of stigma and discrimination, using the knowledge and expertise which lies in the region to their best advantage. The active participation in the World AIDS Day campaign with large media coverage points to strong NS commitment.



Red Cross activities marking World AIDS Day on 1 December involved a Candle March in Bratislava, Slovakia

The eighth ERNA meeting and workshop was held in Poland in September 2004 with the participation of 10 NSs from Central Europe. (For details, please see the website at www.erna.sk) The NSs of Romania and Moldova were accepted as new members of ERNA, bringing the total to 36 members. Key recommendations from the meeting were: to scale up activities in harm reduction and cooperation between Red Cross and People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) groups; to focus the work jointly on HIV and TB issues; to prioritise stigma and discrimination activities and campaigns; ERNA Board to have a role in advocating for access to treatment in member countries and to lobby politicians and NSs of the need for effective Harm Reduction; to collaborate more with other partners in the field of HIV/AIDS & TB and Harm

Reduction. The ERNA Board also met in Geneva to discuss future co-operation with the ERNA Secretariat and the Europe Department/Health Department at the Federation Secretariat. The next ERNA meeting and workshop will be held in Kiev, Ukraine in 2005.

The ERNA Secretary, a key correspondent for the *PassItOn* –forum, the Regional H&C delegate and the Youth representatives from the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Red Cross societies, participated in “Europe and HIV/AIDS: new challenges and opportunities” conference, the 2nd Open Europe Conference in Vilnius Lithuania. The conference provided a good forum to discuss the increasing HIV/AIDS issues with various partners. Prior to the conference, the Lithuanian Red Cross Youth representative was appointed as a new key correspondent for *PassItOn* –forum.

The Bulgarian Red Cross submitted a report concerning the Drug Prevention programme integrating youth of Bulgarian and Roma origin. The results are encouraging, as the Roma youth are enthusiastic to have the opportunity to increase their knowledge in drug issues as well as Red Cross activities.

With American Red Cross financial support, the Lithuanian Red Cross will implement an HIV/AIDS prevention programme in collaboration with the Kaliningrad branch of the Russian Red Cross. Already established co-operation will continue, as there is an interest to increase the joint activities and strengthen the capacity of the Red Cross on both sides of the border on an issue, which itself recognizes no borders.

The Macedonian Red Cross has continued the Drug Prevention programme that started with a visit to the Croatian Red Cross in March 2004, which put in place the theoretical and practical support. The programme will continue when the second tranche of Norwegian financial support is transferred.

The Italian Red Cross has allocated funds for the Harm Reduction Programme in Central and Eastern Europe. The planning has been completed with the Secretariat, Italian Red Cross, regional Health and Care delegate and seven NSs in the Central Europe region and eight NSs in the Central Asia region. The participating NSs (Bulgaria,

Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland) will be trained in Harm Reduction activities and implement the activities on a national level. The first training was held at Villa Maraini in early July 2004. The Lithuanian Red Cross Youth took part. Feedback was positive and encouraged the Lithuanian Red Cross to prepare a national plan of action. The training curriculum has been revised for the next training courses in 2005. The Latvian Red Cross and Lithuanian Red Cross Youth have made good progress with programme implementation.

The Romanian Red Cross has been supported in planning the Global Fund for TB programme. The meeting with the Romanian Red Cross and representatives from the Health Department at the Secretariat and the Regional Delegation emphasized the importance of knowledge sharing with experienced NSs. By the end of November 2004, the TB coordinators from the Uzbek Red Crescent and Russian Red Cross visited the Romanian Red Cross for one week, financed by the British Red Cross. The aim of the visit was to share knowledge and experience on TB issues and the feedback has been positive.

First Aid programmes in the region will have been improved and their sustainability increased. A community based First Aid approach, including psychological support and health promotion components, will have been developed and integrated in the First Aid training.

The NSs actively took part in the World First Aid Day in September 2004. Extensive media coverage emphasized the importance of First Aid skills amongst the general public. The collaboration with Toyota, which started within the EU Road Safety campaign, continues. The NSs in the region have established good collaboration with the Reference Centre for First Aid, based in Paris.

The annual meeting for European First Aid Education was held in Berlin, Germany in October. Due to the lack of funds, only five NSs from the Central Europe region were present.

The Task Force for Psychological Support (PS) has collected information from the NSs in the Central Europe region. Ms. Sanja Pupacic (Task Force member and Regional PCD Coordinator) participated in the European Network on Psychological Support (ENPS) in Innsbruck Austria, where she was elected as a member of the Steering Group. The NSs have expressed the interest to further develop the PS issues and increase the integration within other programmes. The funding situation of the regional Health and Care programme does not allow support for any of these initiatives.

Capacity of National Societies in the region to promote voluntary non-remunerated blood donor recruitment (VNBDR) will have improved, with the aim of contributing to safe blood supply. (For details, please see the website at <http://blood.ifrccee.org>)

The NSs have continued national activities on VNBDR with very limited financial support from the Regional Delegation, because of the lack of funds. The planned regional workshop was again postponed from October 2004 and will be held in Spring 2005 if funding is secured.

The Bulgarian and Slovak Red Cross societies have implemented a project focusing on youth in order to recruit more young blood donors, and a branch of the Hungarian Red Cross has prepared an application to the Shoken Fund, focusing on increasing the number of young blood donors.

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. In February 2004, the facilitators of the Social Welfare and PCD workshop raised the question: What should we do with our networks that are not functioning? The silence has continued – the NSs have not expressed the need to have a well functioning network although there are several unofficial sub-groups and contacts. However, discussions have shown that the NSs are very concerned about the socio-economic situation in their respective countries and are actively looking for means to respond to the changing needs of the most vulnerable people in the communities.

During a visit to Kosovo, the issue of home care was raised as the situation among the elderly people is very poor. The Kosovo appeal was already revised to accommodate this activity. The Croatian Red Cross will provide professional assistance in order to establish a long-term home care programme in Kosovo.

2. Disaster Management

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.

The disaster management/OD delegate who has been with the Regional Delegation for over four years, finished his mission at the end of December 2004. The southern sub-regional coordinator – Slobodanka Curic – will continue to manage the regional disaster management programme as part of the Regional Team in 2005, based in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Progress/achievements against 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.

By the end of June 2004, 11 of the 15 NSs in the region had plans in place (National Societies in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia). The Albanian and Romanian Red Cross societies are currently updating plans and the Estonian, Lithuanian and Latvian Red Cross societies are continuing to work on developing plans. In Latvia, a significant meeting with authorities related to the involvement of the Red Cross in disaster preparedness planning took place in December with positive feedback. The northern sub-regional coordinator for disaster management, in place since July, represented the Federation.

Two disasters during the six month period put these National Society plans to the test. In the Shkodre district of Albania, flooding in early December resulted in a USD 65,000 allocation from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), in order to begin food distribution. Two information bulletins were prepared and launched. In Romania, minor flooding was managed by the Romanian Red Cross with locally raised funds and the National Society's own funds.

In Macedonia a new law on disaster management is under preparation. The Macedonian Red Cross is currently discussing how it can be involved in the legal framework and the issue has been taken up with the government.

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 ground work for this plan has been completed and will continue in 2005. The changing presence of the Federation in the region (closure of offices and cuts in staff at the RD) have delayed this plan, as staffing levels have an impact on the roles and assets that can be defined in this plan. However, key contact points and information channels have been identified, with the plan clearly linked to the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) and its functions. The focus has also been on integrating and positioning all programme elements – OD, PCD, Health and Care – within any Disaster Management plan.

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

Close cooperation continues with health and care and organisational development programmes at the RD. This supports the approach of advocating for National Society Disaster Preparedness plans to incorporate other programme aspects – such as health and care, psychological support and participatory assessment methodologies - not only Disaster Management.

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

No further training for the RDRT took place in 2004 as no funding was available this year. It is essential that the team is rejuvenated and that new training courses take place in order to integrate new members to the team as others leave. Information gathering for the regional data base has been done by the RC in Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia & Montenegro and Croatia. The next step is to compile this information in a regionally effective and user-friendly way and to integrate elements of the Characteristics of a Well Prepared NS (WPNS) and RDRT data. However this project has received no funding and the data input work remains valid only at a national level.

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 Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI).

The southern sub-regional networking and programme functions effectively. The NSs are actively cooperating, driven by need, common understanding and contexts.

The Croatian Red Cross invited neighbouring National Societies as observers to a disaster management simulation exercise in the third quarter. This was jointly organised by the Croatian Red Cross and government and included the fire brigade, water and mountain rescue services, First Aid services, the police and municipalities, with the aim of testing their DP capacity. The results for the NSs were positive – roles and organisation is clearly planned.

Cooperation with the Stability Pact has been less active during the last six months of the year, although the Federation was represented at a regional Stability Pact meeting in Skopje in October, during which the municipal DP project from Serbia & Montenegro was presented. Support has also been provided to the Hungarian Red Cross in the creation of a flood protection project within Stability Pact, also working with the Hungarian government. Within the regional context, the Serbia & Montenegro Red Cross organised a meeting in Belgrade for sister NSs in the region on the issue of developing an international disaster response law and establishing a common understanding on how to promote this question in the future.

Co-operation within the Central Europe Region

A planned DM meeting for the southern sub-region coordinators was postponed once during the final quarter, due to funding shortages, however the meeting eventually went ahead in early December in Serbia & Montenegro, enabling valuable discussion, experience sharing and knowledge and tools updating to take place. A water and sanitation expert from the Austrian Red Cross led discussions about the use of water/sanitation equipment to enable equipment available in one country to be accessible to Red Cross societies in neighbouring countries should an emergency need arise.

In October, the Red Cross/EU Office in Brussels organised a meeting related to how to link Disaster Management to Civil Protection within the EU concept. The discussions were important in coming to a common understanding about the impact this distinction can have for NS DM work. – with DM implying a wider scope of activity for NS than civil protection. Participation from the region was limited to the National Societies of Slovakia, Hungary, Estonia and Lithuania – reflecting limited funding for travel costs, rather than disinterest in the issue.

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

The position of northern sub-regional coordinator was finally filled from 1 July 2004, with Norwegian Red Cross financial support. The coordinator was recruited based on a job description agreed upon during a sub-regional DM meeting in Riga earlier in the year. The coordinator is based in Lithuania and works on a part-time basis. Although some Norwegian Red Cross funding is available to support the position to mid-2005, the current coordinator may leave the position early to take up a new post within the government. Discussions are continuing on how best to ensure coordination from January 2005. The experience of the past 6 months has shown how the position has helped to open up possibilities for cooperation between the Estonian, Lithuanian and Latvian Red Cross societies in the field of DM. The next step is to translate this cooperation into funding opportunities, helping to position the three NSs for cross border or trans-national funding mechanisms through the EU.

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 network is now in place, functioning and expanding. The most encouraging part of the programme is that there is a very good cooperation between the two entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

3. Humanitarian Values

This section has been incorporated into section “Cooperation, Advocacy and Humanitarian Values”, as it was for the Appeal 2004.

4. Organisational Development

Goal: The capacities of Central European national societies to organise people, mobilize resources and adjust their structures to better respond to new vulnerabilities in their communities are strengthened.

A new regional Organisational Development (OD) coordinator – Branko Knezevic - was recruited in August and took up his position at the Regional Delegation in September. His experience of OD interventions with the Red Cross of Serbia & Montenegro Red Cross, and his knowledge and understanding of the region, have enabled him to quickly integrate within the Regional Team. In funding terms, the Swedish Red Cross non-earmarked funding, Norwegian government and Red Cross funding and Capacity Building Fund allocations have enabled the organizational development programme priorities to be addressed during the last 6 months of the year. The coordinator position itself remains difficult to fund, although it is essential to ensure the technical advice, support, coaching and monitoring built into the programme priorities.

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 second half of 2004, the focus has been on supporting the Polish and Latvian Red Cross societies in specific areas of their planned change processes. In Latvia, the Federation has been involved in steering committee meetings with the National Society to discuss key challenges and issues on a regular basis. A fundraising consultant was commissioned to assist the NSs in developing a fundraising strategy and plan of action, closely linked to the Public Relations (PR) strategy. This mission went ahead in October. In December, the Federation facilitated a Project Planning Process (PPP) course for NS staff and volunteers, working with a local case study on the national poverty reduction strategy and linking to possible project proposals and funding mechanisms. The PPP training will be rolled out at a national level in 2005 led by NS trainers and using a translated manual. The Latvian Red Cross is clearly the owner of its change process and other elements of the plan were implemented with the Regional Delegation role limited to monitoring. Although overly optimistic in its planning of activities for the year, partly due to the late approval of the CBF funding, the Latvian Red Cross has made good progress against objectives and delayed activities will take place early in 2005.

In the Polish Red Cross the focus has been on the development of the financial management system and purchase of software and hardware. The process has been delayed considerably and may only be completed early in 2005. Significant management and staff changes have contributed to the delay. A new director of the headquarters took up his position in October, and the organizational development programme coordinator left his position in October and has been replaced from within the Polish Red Cross. The Polish Red Cross continues to face considerable challenges within its planned change process, particularly regarding the financial recovery plan and plans for branch reorganization. The former regional finance development delegate is a member of the Steering Committee for the change process in the Polish Red Cross and, in his position as an external consultant, can provide valuable support and insight to the NS. The Regional Delegation continues to support the new leadership in meeting these challenges and has provided opportunities for increased knowledge sharing for the ‘newcomers’ to the process. With Capacity Building Fund support, a knowledge sharing meeting for the three National Societies involved in planned change processes (Romania, Latvia and Poland) was organized in November 2004 to encourage open and frank discussion

of the challenges and possible solutions and to provide an open space for discussion of the priorities set by the NS themselves. This forum proved very effective in touching on some still very sensitive issues, including staff and management competencies to meet the challenges. The Slovenian Red Cross also attended this knowledge sharing meeting, having expressed a keen interest in developing its own planned change process plan. This meeting has also supported them in their decision to continue in this direction, also accepting the need for time and governance commitment for the planning process.

The planned change process in the Romanian Red Cross continues on schedule. The reporting period saw further staff changes – a new legal adviser and a new fundraising officer joined the National Society. PPP training continued, as did work with the media. The Romanian Red Cross is the clear owner of its change process and is implementing the planned activities in line with the plan. The contributions of external consultants have been reduced and the focus in 2005 will be on consolidating the branch/headquarters relationship and team building following the major reorganization.

Norwegian government funding through the Norwegian Red Cross has also supported OD programmes in the Albanian and Macedonian Red Cross societies. Although the funds were only transferred mid year, activities have been covered since January 2004. In Albania, the emphasis has been on public relations, governance and management meetings at national and branch level, volunteer management initiatives, including recruitment and campaigns and essential salary support for key programme coordinators. The Albanian Red Cross currently receives no un-earmarked funding from its government. A visit from the Head of Regional Delegation and Head of Europe Department during the early summer also included talks with the Prime Minister. The Regional Delegation will continue to try to use its regional representative role to enhance the Albanian Red Cross Society's position in this situation. In Macedonia, the funding has focused on health and care (first aid manual), the communications programme (salary support, publications, and internet) and governance and management training.

Progress/achievements against 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

The Latvian Red Cross has been carrying out branch level governance training based on the new governance handbook produced by the OD department in Geneva. The manual has been translated and a team of trainers established. PPP training took place in December in English for a mix of headquarters staff and branch volunteers. The emphasis was on including potential volunteers with project planning and proposal writing skills who can help branches in project development. This training was put in context by the results of the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) carried out since May and which showed a clear need for the development of psycho-social support activities. The manual will be translated into Latvian and an already existing Russian translation may be used in predominantly Russian speaking communities.

In Romania, the PPP courses continued to be rolled out at a branch level using the translated manual and national trainers.

The Regional OD coordinator has facilitated three OD planning workshops for the Red Cross of Serbia & Montenegro, aiming to place ownership of the OD programme of the NS clearly with the NS management and to agree on priorities for 2005. Working groups have been set up to lead in specific priority areas.

An initial strategic planning workshop took place in Struga, Macedonia in November 2004, aiming to set the ground work for the Macedonian Red Cross to update its strategic plan and develop a yearly action plan. Neighbouring National Societies were also invited to attend the workshop in order to share their experiences and lessons learnt from strategic planning processes. The Albanian Red Cross is currently completing a year long strategic planning process which has resulted in the approval of a plan for 2005 – 2010 and was able to give some advice. The Regional Delegation and ICRC (Skopje Delegation) also made presentations to the group.

The Slovenian Red Cross has also been assisted in an initial planning phase linked to its desire to develop a longer term development plan, prompted also by its interest in the change process experiences of the Romanian, Polish and

Latvian Red Cross societies. A workshop was held, bringing together branch and headquarters staff in December. A session was facilitated by the Regional OD Coordinator.

In autumn 2004, the volunteer management consultant attached to the OD department in Geneva visited the Hungarian and Slovenian Red Cross societies to introduce the existing and new volunteer management tools (volunteer management cycle, Volunteer Policy Guidelines and Implementation Plan, National Legislation and Volunteering). Reenergizing the Federation's approach to volunteer management and meeting a key National Society need, the National Societies have agreed to simple and practical steps in starting to formalize existing volunteer management procedures (Hungarian Red Cross) or beginning a new volunteer management project (Slovenian Red Cross). A further visit to the Latvian Red Cross, in order to support volunteer management elements of the existing change process plans, will take place early in 2005.

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

During the reporting period, the statutes of the Lithuanian Red Cross were revised during the General Assembly to bring them in line with new national legislation.

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

The Regional Delegation continues to support the National Societies involved in the change processes directly through its full time OD team, but also by managing the regional pool of expertise. Consultants with expertise in fundraising, governance, project proposal and funding writing, financial management and public relations have been identified and have already been involved in supporting the Romanian Red Cross and Latvian Red Cross in fundraising and PR areas. The pool continues to develop.

The Capacity Building Fund-supported knowledge sharing meeting (please see above) was also a clear example of how regional networking on an informal and needs basis can directly benefit NS programming and organizational development.

4.2. Financial Management and Financial Resource Development

In 2005, the financial management and financial resource development and organisational development programmes will be integrated into one organisational development programme.

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.

Progress/achievements against expected results

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

The 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 Red Cross has managed to develop financial management procedures, including the unified charts of accounts that are now being disseminated across the NS. Purchases continue within this programme and training continues nationally. The Polish Red Cross is also addressing this issue as part of its planned change process. (For details, please see section above).

The Macedonian Red Cross has undertaken an external audit of its finances for the past three and a half year period. The ICRC delegation in Macedonia has supported this process with funds to pay an external audit company. This is a significant change reflecting a real willingness to be transparent and open. It is hoped that an external audit will continue on a regular basis.

Fundraising skills of the National Society personnel are enhanced

Follow up to the regional fundraising seminar continues. The National Societies were asked by the regional representative of Henkel to address to the company their ideas for regional activities for cooperation between the

Red Cross and Henkel. A follow up meeting with Henkel is planned for the new year. A regional fundraisers network was proposed during the regional workshop, but the NSs prefer to work through informal contacts with an annual gathering for experience and information exchange.

The new fundraising officer of the Romanian Red Cross, who joined the National Society in October, attended the Skillshare conference in the Netherlands the same month. This was an excellent introduction to the Movement, to the Red Cross fundraising context and also to practical ideas for activities. She was also able to meet some of her counterparts from the region – fundraising officers from the Red Cross in Slovenia, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Lithuania.

An active regional network of National Society fundraisers is established

For details, please see previous objective.

4.3 Branch and Community Development (PCD)

Following a period of five months, a new Participatory Community Development coordinator – Sanja Pupacic - was recruited and took up her position at the Regional Delegation in August. She has extensive experience of participatory programming particularly within the field of population movement, at the Croatian Red Cross. At this time, confirmation of the Norwegian government funding for the PCD programme in 2004 also came through.

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

Progress/achievements against expected results

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

During this reporting period, projects carried out with communities in the four countries as part of the second round of PCD were finalised. As a result of the Regional Delegation's Appeal for 2004, an application made to the Norwegian government by the Norwegian Red Cross for funding for these countries to continue PCD for a further year was accepted.

Macedonia

Participatory Community Development was implemented in six Red Cross Branches in Macedonia: Vales, Kocani, Strumica, Prilep, Cair-Skopje and Gazi Baba-Skopje. The programme targeted the most vulnerable populations within the local communities, living in dire social conditions, most of them being Roma people.

With the support of the RD, the Macedonian Red Cross will continue with implementation of the PCD programme in 2004/2005 in 4 new Red Cross branches: Kicevo, Demir Hisar, Valandovo and Radovis. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the RD Budapest and the MRC for the PCD programme implementation for this extended period.

In December, a meeting was held with the coordinators from the new branches to discuss programme implementation and attended also by the Macedonian Red Cross Secretary General who asked for the involvement and personal contribution of all coordinators in the process of programme implementation. The tasks for the first implementation period were set during the meeting, in compliance with the plan of activities. Agreements of cooperation were signed with the branches.

The PCD coordinator is in regular cooperation with the branches which have previously implemented the PCD programme, in order to support them in the future planning of activities, fundraising and establishing partnerships.

In October, the regional PCD coordinator visited Macedonian Red Cross and the PCD programme was implemented in the branches of Gazi Baba, Prilep and Strumica. A meeting was held with the Secretary General and the Vice-President of the Macedonian Red Cross who expressed their strong support to the national PCD coordinator and the overall activities implemented for the benefit of both the beneficiaries and the local branches.

The coordination of the PCD coordinators in the branches in this period was regular and fruitful. Coordinators in the new branches will be supported by the network of previously trained local PCD coordinators. The training of the Macedonian Red Cross representatives in PCD that took place in May enabled further expansion of the programme ideas and activities and created an opportunity to incorporate components of PCD in other Macedonian Red Cross programmes such as Health and Disaster Management. Implementation of PCD significantly improves the Macedonian Red Cross image in the country, both on the local and the national level.

Hungary

During the summer, the Hungarian Red Cross has done a mapping of the resources within the NS and reintroduced the programme to the National Society through a conference for the national PCD coordinators. A MoU was signed with the RD in Budapest for the PCD implementation in 2004/2005. Preparatory work has been done after three regions applied and were accepted for the programme implementation in this period: Budapest, Somogy and Veszprem.

In Hajmas, Somogy county, initial meetings took place with the mayor, Roma local government representative, county branch secretary and the regional coordinator. In coordination with all actors, Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) training, field work and the Large Group Work (LGW) were organised (mainly attracting young people). Participants articulated main priorities for the communities and the process of project planning has started. In Budapest, (south region) preparatory meetings with relevant local government representatives and the Red Cross branch staff were held and the PRA training was organised. However, there were some problems in mobilising the community, not so many people showed interest and active participation in the process. Still some efforts will be made and if no success is achieved, then the programme will be launched in another district in that region. In Veszprem, the programme was launched in cooperation with the new branch secretary. Coordination was established with the local government, community members and the non governmental organisations (NGOs). PRA training took place in December.

As for the "old" PCD communities, in many places the programme has become sustainable and is running without specific support from the headquarters, while in some places support is still needed. For instance, in Orkeny, Pest county, the programme is sustainable: they regularly get new resources through project applications. Among plans for the future are home care services, family day center, environment protection activities, maintenance of old houses, hiring of Roma pedagogical assistant, a labour market service, etc.

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.

Serbia and Montenegro

The PCD Project, Second Round in Serbia and Montenegro started in January 2004 in three municipalities: Mladenovac (Serbia), Valjevo (Serbia) and Bar (Montenegro). In Mladenovac and Valjevo target groups were local Roma people, whereas in Bar, the target group was the Roma community displaced from Kosovo and Metohija, with status of Internal Displaced persons (IDPs).

In all Red Cross branches, the plans of action for the micro-projects were made following the PRA trainings and preparatory phase of the PCD process and actual implementation of the micro-project took place during the summer, ending in September. The Federation Delegation in Belgrade provided support in carrying out the tender procedure for the construction works, making payments to the contractors, as well as submitting financial reports after the work was finalized. All the procedures were done in accordance with both the State and Federation standards.

According to the project plans made by the communities, various activities were launched and implemented. In Valjevo branch, a sports playground was put in working order for the Roma children and the other children to join. In addition, a football club for Roma kids was formed and plays with the other clubs in the town.

In Mladenovac, a prefab house is being used for Roma children as a kindergarten, playroom and a place for educational activities. Interest from the side of Roma children is big and the Red Cross volunteers have to make schedules to be able to accept more children and youngsters. A New Year's party will be organized in the prefab house for the children by the local Red Cross. A former warehouse in Bar was adapted for the education of Roma IDP children who are not attending school. One room was equipped for computer education and another was for educational activities, art workshop, etc. Computers will be used for training the young Roma IDPs, in order to provide them with skills to look for better opportunities in school and work. Some joint activities with the local children will be organized, to include Roma children more into the community.

The Regional PCD coordinator visited branches that implemented the PCD programme in Serbia (Mladenovac) and Montenegro (Podgorica and Bar). One of the good outcomes of the programme was that more young people were attracted to the Red Cross and its activities through the PCD process and are now involved through volunteer work in helping Roma and other vulnerable groups to better integrate into society. Future programme directions and the possibilities of combining the trainings in needs assessment and PCD for branches were discussed with the NS and the Federation Delegation in Belgrade.

Bulgaria

In Bulgaria, the implementation of the micro-projects planned within the PCD process was finalised. In the village of Mramoren, Vratza region, projects named "Children Our Tomorrow" and "Nature-Our Life" were successfully carried out, involving the community as a whole with strong support from the local government. Projects worked on improving the poor conditions in the local kindergarten that lead to health risks for the children and arranging the village park, clearing small bushes, dry branches and other waste in the village park and planting new trees. A Green Patrol of four children was formed to protect the park and to make daily visits to plant flowers. Thanks to the support from the mayor and the Red Cross branch, the local community managed to solve other problems in their village, using the skills and partnerships established during the PCD process (lighting in the streets, repairing the road, mobile phone connections, renovating the church, etc.).

In Stamboliiski, Haskovo region, microprojects "A Hope For Us" created conditions for young people to engage in sports activities and the "Park" enabled both youngsters and elderly to have a place for their activities and meetings. Projects attracted a lot of media attention and interest from the neighbouring municipalities was significant. The community is also searching for new donors and partnerships to build on what they have already achieved. In Karnobat, Burgas region, "Our Street" project was implemented. Repairing the road enabled local people to access community services. The project was partly supported by the local government. The second part of the microproject included establishing a community team to work on reintegration of Roma people, developing an educational programme for training on human and minority rights and organizing joint events.

The Bulgarian Red Cross has engaged in a process of evaluation of the PCD programme implemented so far in the branches and the results will be produced in the form of an Evaluation report. Evaluation was done by the Bulgarian Red Cross staff, specifically trained to carry out this work. Future of the PCD in Bulgarian Red Cross will see more integration of the PCD components in the other programmes, as well as implementation of the PCD methodology in the programmes with the forced migrants and in the area of combating human trafficking.

The twinning pilot PCD is continuing between the Hungarian and the Romanian Red Cross 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 Red Cross coordinator and the Regional Delegation coordinator. Harghita branch secretary attended the meeting of the PCD coordinators that took place in Budapest in September, sharing experiences and ideas for the future implementation of the PCD in Romania, involving more Red Cross branches.

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

This expected result has not been achieved yet, although the Albanian Red Cross expressed interest early in the year. The Appeal for 2005 contains a reference to two new National Societies starting PCD (Albania and Romania), as it is clear that there is an interest and a need from National Societies. Other NSs in the region (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina) will be introduced to the PCD concept and ideas during the 2005, as well as to the achievements and progress of the NSs in the region.

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 this year. The PCD facilitators have extensive experience and knowledge about the programme implementation and all the benefits it brings to the local communities and the branches themselves, in terms of project implementation and creating partnerships with the relevant stakeholders. A knowledge sharing meeting for the PCD coordinators was organised in September, in order to discuss the programmes achievements and future plans.

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 (RYDP) 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 but integrated within the organizational development programme and coordinator's position.

Progress/achievements against 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 the participation of 14 National Societies from the region.

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

Collecting donations during Hunger Day campaign in Lithuania

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. In August, youth representatives gathered in Slovakia to work on a CD Rom to support the Candle March campaign on 1 December World AIDS Day. This built on the previous positive feedback from the CD Rom produced for the Hunger Day campaign. The meeting was self organized by the Youth members and a CD Rom was produced and uploaded onto the ERNA website. The Slovak Red Cross youth section took a coordinating role for the Candle March campaign project collection and support. For the Hunger Day campaign, the Regional Delegation took the coordination role, using the youth sections contact list to request any calls for support. In total, EUR 10,000 was provided to support the National Societies of Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Macedonia, Slovenia with Hunger Day activities.

National society youth sections benefit from access to relevant information.

The regional RYDP web site continues to exist, but although discussions were held during the 2004 youth conference about how this can be used as resource now that there is no longer a person responsible for updating it, the site has not been updated for some time. The lack of resources at the Regional Delegation means that this will not be done unless the regional youth sections decide to act on this.

Programme related networking and cooperation initiatives are supported

The Regional Delegation has been talking to key actors in the informal youth network concerning youth needs for 2005 and integrated these into the Annual Appeal. Support is intended to enable youth sections to attend the European Cooperation Meeting to be held in Vienna in 2005.

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, enabling 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 NSs of the region with information about how their country's membership of the European Union would affect Red Cross work. During the transition period to the end of 2004, the EU NSs have been visited by either the regional health and care delegate or the regional officer in Geneva, in an effort to map outstanding needs and priority areas for support after 2004.

Following more information heavy training courses on accessing EU funding earlier in the year, the Regional Delegation has been attempting to take practical steps to identify new funding mechanisms for National Societies, encouraging applications from NS and working together on those applications. The Hungarian Red Cross has put together an application to the Council of Europe for a Confidence Building Measures Programme involving PCD methodology. A Macedonian Red Cross branch has also put forward an application to the same call for proposals. The Regional Delegation is currently discussing the opportunities for coordinating a regional application to cover a number of EU NSs, although the responsibility for this will no longer lie with the RD in January 2005.

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 humanitarian values and international representation sections. This follows the structure of the Central Europe Appeal 2004.

Goal: Awareness of the situation of the most vulnerable groups in Central Europe is improved among various governments, UN agencies, regional organisations, international and national NGOs, the private sector and other stakeholders.

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.

Progress/achievements against 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.

The RD has met with the Albanian Prime Minister during the reporting period to strengthen the Albanian Red Cross's voice when asking for more funding support from its government. A ministerial level meeting also took place in Montenegro to support the Montenegrin Red Cross with government and the President. This resulted in immediate positive action regarding the Red Cross law currently under preparation.

The Federation has also been represented by the RD at a number of conferences held in the region, including the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Environment and Health, "The Future for our Children", held in Budapest at the end of June 2004. The Hungarian Red Cross vice-president made a statement to the Conference. The Federation was also represented at the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) conference held in Budapest in early December.

The RD is increasingly called on to support NSs in their relations with their respective governments, often to obtain financial support but also to profile themselves as serious partners in Disaster Management or Health. Disaster Management 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 is very limited as the information delegate position was discontinued at the end of 2003. An element of communications work currently falls within the programme coordinator's job description, but this is limited to maintaining basic contact with national societies on communications issues, rather than programme implementation and media activities. However in December, the Federation was represented, through the external coordinator of The Bridge project, at a regional media seminar for journalists organised by the Bulgarian Red Cross. The focus of the Federation session was on how the Bulgarian Red Cross is a national organisation within an international movement, and how that international movement can be a resource for the vulnerable people of Bulgaria, the media themselves and the Bulgarian Red Cross.

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

Human Trafficking is an issue which respects no borders, as with HIV/AIDS. In both these fields, the Regional Delegation is continuing discussions with the Secretariat on cross regional cooperation, and also on a more practical basis initiating more cross regional contact than in the past. The Uzbek Red Crescent and Russian Red Cross support to the Romanian Red Cross in the TB project supported through the Global Fund is one example of this. In addition, the latest edition of The Bridge magazine focusing on the issue of human trafficking and the Red Cross response, is involving counterparts in Budapest, Ukraine, Moldova, Russia as well as the Central Europe countries.

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 that benefit National Societies.

The RD is increasingly relying on consultants from the region – from NSs as well as outside – to complement the expertise sought by NSs 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 a community level. New funding sources from EU and agencies such as International Organisation of Migration (IOM) are being explored. The programme coordinator position was revitalised during the summer and has been filled on a part time basis by Caroline Mawdsley. This position is focusing on supporting the Head of Regional Delegation with programme coordination, planning and reporting issues as well as exploring new funding opportunities.

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

A further edition of The Bridge magazine will be produced early in 2005, focusing on the issue of human trafficking and looking at the Red Cross response. The project is being coordinated by a part time consultant working with the Federation in Budapest, an editor in London and counterparts around the region and beyond – a truly Movement effort! The funding has come from remaining communications funds, the British Red Cross, the Croatian Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the ICRC.

Although still in draft format, the PCD toolkit has been well received by different counterparts and it is planned to be produced on CD Rom for wider distribution. Another significant contribution in advocacy materials in 2004 has been the CD Rom produced for World HIV/AIDS Day modelled on the now well used Hunger Day materials.

6. International Representation

This section has been incorporated under the Coordination, Advocacy and Humanitarian Values section, as it was for the Appeal.

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