

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 جمعيات الصليب الأحمر والقمر الأحمر

CENTRAL EUROPE REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

14 July 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries. For more information: <http://www.ifrc.org>

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA066; Programme Update no.1

Period covered: 1 January 2005 to 30 June 2005;

Appeal target: CHF 2,260,819 (USD 1.79m or EURO 1.46m)

[<Click here for live updated of contributions>](#)

An appeal revision is being prepared and will be issued in the near future via a further programme update detailing and explaining the changes.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [<click here for Federation Europe page & reports>](#)

Romania: Floods emergency appeal issued in April 2005, and minor emergency appeal issued in July 2005;

Bulgaria: Floods information bulletin issued June and July 2005; Bosnia & Herzegovina minor emergency appeal issued July 2005; Serbia and Montenegro emergency appeal issued in April 2005, Annual Appeals for Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Programme summary:

Following the accession to the EU of eight countries in Central Europe on 1 May 2004, the regional delegation (RD) has phased out its support for the national societies in these new EU states. Previously covering 15 countries in Central Europe, from 1 January 2005 the regional delegation is supporting seven national societies in South Central Europe (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia & Montenegro including Kosovo). In addition support is continuing for long term change processes in the Polish and Latvian Red Cross. European Union accession remains a major issue in the region with the national societies in the next round accession countries looking to learn from the experiences of their sister national societies. The regional delegation is gearing up its support in this area – informing national societies of relevant calls for proposals for funding from the EU as well as supporting programme managers in application writing.

The response to the tsunami emergency needs – including the organization of national fundraising campaigns as well as international relief consignments – swamped national societies and the Regional Delegation at the beginning of 2005. Although no longer officially covering NS in the new EU states, guidance was provided by the RD to these NS in how to contribute to Federation appeals as a donor NS, as well as advice in managing relations with governments and negotiating relief contributions. Trained Emergency Response Unit (ERU) WatSan team members from the Macedonian Red Cross joined Austrian RC WatSan ERUs deployed in the region. A number of new initiatives were launched in the region during the spring. For the first time in over four years, governance and management leaders from the national societies in the region met in Budapest to look at issues such as the Federation's statutory meetings in Seoul in November this year, regional planning priorities and the Federation of the Future process. The participatory community development (PCD) programme and training materials were finalized in CD-rom format and distributed widely. The process was introduced to community development coordinators in East Africa. Requests for support to develop similar processes in other parts of the world have followed. At the same time a group was set up to develop guidelines for best practice in working with Roma communities, supported by the Danish Red Cross with funds and a consultant to lead the guidelines development.

In the health and care programme the focus continued on supporting national societies in developing access to international and national sources of funding for HIV/AIDS and TB programmes, specifically through the Global Fund. The RD's role in identifying needs and matching with regional best practice and resources continued – in the fields of blood donor recruitment and HIV/AIDS programmes. A new member of staff joined the RD in June – Sonja Tanevska – from the Macedonian Red Cross - who will take over the role of regional health and care coordinator when Annamari Raikkola finishes her mission in July.

Flooding in Serbia & Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Romania caused extensive damage in late spring and early summer. DREF allocations were approved for three national societies to enable immediate relief operations to begin. An emergency appeal was launched for Romania in April to provide assistance over a six-month period after this year's crops were destroyed, followed by a minor emergency appeal in July, when flooding hit another part of the country. An Information Bulletin was issued for Bulgaria where a one-month relief operation is providing hygiene and cleaning materials to support post-flood operations. Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training went ahead in Bulgaria in June, coinciding with the floods. Facilitators and participants from the RDRT training took part in assessment missions to inform the relief planning process. In Bosnia and Herzegovina flooding in late June and July led to the launch of a minor emergency appeal there.

In Organisational Development (OD) the focus of support continued for the change processes in Romanian, Latvian and Polish Red Cross. With the Romanian Red Cross approaching the end of a 3-year programme, discussions have taken place on how to consolidate the branch and headquarters relationship as well as encourage longer term sustainable support for the national society development in general. In Poland, significant staffing changes have led to a new impetus in the programme and a raised level of ownership and commitment for the financial and branch development aspects.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *Anja Toivola, HoRD, Regional Delegation for Central Europe, Phone: 361 2483300, Email: ifrchu05@ifrc.org*
- *Erja Reinikainen, Regional Officer, Europe Department, Phone : 41 22 730 43 19; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: Erja.Reinikainen@ifrc.org*

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

With the change in the geographical coverage of the Regional Delegation as of 1 January 2005, much work has gone into looking at the consequences of this for the future role and functions of the RD. It is clear that the national societies in the new accession countries (Bulgaria and Romania) as well as Croatia can benefit from the experience of the first round of accession which led to EU membership for eight countries in the region on 1 May 2004. Turning potential new EU funding opportunities into longer term secured funding sources is just one dimension of the EU debate, and one which requires an appropriate level of capacity to manage large scale programmes. Opportunities to tap into funding at a regional level in country may be more realistic for national societies. There is also discussion about the role national societies can play as a lead in civil society in preparing for the EU – comprising the issues of meeting standards and normatives, networking and partnership development. The RD is continuing to plan with national societies to identify concrete areas for support to ensure that preparations are comprehensive.

Response to the appeal has been good. The main donors are the Swedish Red Cross, Swedish government, Norwegian government, Norwegian Red Cross, the Federation's Capacity Building Fund, Finnish Red Cross, British Red Cross and Icelandic Red Cross. The most pressing funding issue, is the situation for the Bulgarian and Romanian Red Cross. Due to the EU accession status of the two countries, traditional sources of funding through donor national society governments have ended. Support for health and PCD programmes has been affected in this way. Together with the national societies, the RD is looking for alternative sources of funding, including EU funds. Funding gaps in the health and care programme mean that the focus continues on HIV/AIDS & TB and other activities (within the psycho-social support programme, blood donor recruitment and community-based first aid) are jeopardized.

The added value of having flexible, non earmarked funding confirmed early in the year – as with the Swedish government and Red Cross funding – is clear in the activity implementation and service provision context. Norwegian government and Red Cross funding was also confirmed before the beginning, enabling activities to continue according to plan and capacity. Delays in implementation of the finance development aspect of the Polish Red Cross change process led to delays in confirmation of the second year of funding. However this was finally confirmed in June, enabling the national society to proceed with other objectives in the overall programme of change in parallel with finance issues.

1. Health and care



Peer education activities of the Romanian RC to mark World TB Day.

Goal: National societies (NS) in South Central Europe are viable partners of their respective authorities in improving the health and social situation of communities.

During the first half of the year 2005 the regional Health and Care (H&C) programme continued to support the NS in the South Central region building NS capacity and strengthening networks and collaboration.

Visits went ahead to the NS in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania and Serbia & Montenegro. The recruitment of a new Regional Health and Care Coordinator began in early 2005. Dr. Sonja Tanevska from the Macedonian Red Cross was appointed as a successor to the Regional Health and Care delegate. In order to ensure the handover process Ms. Tanevska started work on 1 June 2005. Meetings with the

Europe Department/Health Department during the Global Health Forum were held in Geneva in order to discuss the handover to the Regional Health and Care Coordinator.

Objective:

The capacity of the national societies of South Central Europe to provide quality health and care services to the most vulnerable is increased.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: By the end of 2005, all NS will have health and care activities which integrate HIV/AIDS, TB (where relevant) elements and Drug Prevention, including harm reduction activities for IV drug users, appropriately and based on clear strategic development and funding plans, and making best use of regional networks.

Expected Result 2: By the end of 2005, all NS will have an awareness and advocacy plan to fight stigma, social exclusion and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS&TB.

The NSs in the region have continued to plan and implement HIV/AIDS & TB and Drug Prevention programmes. During the first half of 2005 the focus has been on TB projects and Harm Reduction. The Global Fund for HIV/AIDS & TB and Malaria is an important funding source for the NSs in the region.

	HIV/AIDS	Harm Reduction	TB	CCM*
RC of Bosnia & Herzegovina	Application Submitted		Application submitted	
Bulgarian RC	X	X		NS not in CCM
Croatian RC	X	X		NS in CCM
Macedonian RC	X		Application submitted	NS not in CCM
Romanian RC	X		X	NS not in CCM
Serbian RC	X		x	NS not in CCM

* country coordination mechanism

The Romanian RC has succeeded to access the Global Fund for TB. The Federation Secretariat and Regional Delegation have provided technical support in preparing and implementing the plan of action for the TB project. After a few months of implementation, the increased capacity and confidence of the Romanian RC can already be seen. Collaboration has improved with the Ministry of Health and National TB Institute. This year the Romanian RC will increase TB activities as the pharmaceutical company *Eli Lilly* confirmed funding for the Multi-Drug Resistance (MDR) TB project, to provide information to MDR-TB patients, their families and the general public.

The Serbian RC will be implementing activities of the Global Fund for TB. The Federation Secretariat and the Regional Delegation have provided technical support although the plan of action and discussions with the Ministry of Health are still under process.

In 2004, the Federation Secretariat and the Italian Red Cross signed an agreement to support NSs in Harm Reduction activities. The programme provides funding and includes five days' training at Villa Maraini Foundation in Rome, Italy. The participation in this programme has strengthened the capacity of the NSs (Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia Lithuania, and Macedonia) and has further developed the drug prevention programmes. Those staff and volunteers trained within this programme will be part of the growing regional resource pool that is being developed and which has the support of the regional NS leaders.

Support was requested by the Red Cross of Kosova to develop its HIV/AIDS activities. Best practice and model programme activities from the region were shared with the local Red Cross.

All NS are now planning awareness and advocacy campaigns to fight stigma and discrimination linked to HIV/AIDS and TB. The results of these plans can be seen in the range of activities carried out to mark World TB Day and 8 May. In March 2005 the NSs in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania and Serbia & Montenegro organised public awareness campaigns to mark World TB Day. The annual Red Cross Day on 8 May was also marked with various activities focusing on advocacy. Both occasions were well covered by national media, showing the impact of the NSs work in reducing stigma and discrimination and involving larger numbers of the general public.

The Croatian RC and the Serbian RC were invited to the Global Health Forum held in Geneva in May 2005. The aim was to provide a forum for NSs to share good practices and promote social mobilization. Due to other

commitments the Serbian RC was not able to attend. The presentation on harm reduction and advocacy of the Croatian RC was well received.

Expected Result 3: By the end of 2005, the Participatory Community Development (PCD) methodology is integrated with health and social welfare activities, working with various vulnerable groups e.g. Roma, elderly people, victims and family members of the trafficking in human beings etc.

The integration of the PCD methodology with health and care programmes proceeds slowly. It seems that the NSs need more clarifications in order to start effective integration. This issue will be discussed during the Health Coordinators' and PCD Coordinators' meeting in early July. The Croatian RC is planning to integrate harm reduction activities and human trafficking.

In April 2005 a meeting was held in Belgrade bringing together donor NS and NS in the region involved in using Participatory Community Development (PCD) methodology in their work with Roma communities. The discussions have launched an initiative to develop guidelines for best practice in working with Roma in the region and will build on experience from the PCD programme. This initiative is supported by the Danish RC and will be a further opportunity to look at the aspects of PCD which are transferable to other programming areas.

Expected Result 4: By the end of 2005, the regional task force has started to co-ordinate the activities on Voluntary, Non-remunerated Blood Donor Recruitment. The success stories (best practices) for raising the awareness for safe blood supply will be available on the web site, which is updated by the regional task force.



Measuring blood pressure,
Romanian RC

Due to the lack of ownership of the NSs the regional task force on Voluntary, Non-remunerated Blood Donor Recruitment is not working effectively. The task force members were not interested in taking the responsibility to host and update the web site. Therefore the efforts to re-establish the task force and the web site have been reduced. It seems that the NSs actively promote safe blood supply on a national level but regular collaboration with other NSs in the region is not a priority. This year the second World Blood Donor Day on 14 June raised large media attention and the NSs implemented various activities focusing on young blood donors.

The Albanian RC and the Red Cross of Kosova (RCK) have requested assistance to scale up their Blood programme. With support from the Regional Delegation, the Macedonian RC established connections and organised the first meeting by inviting the representatives from Albanian RC and RCK. Unfortunately RCK was not able to attend the meeting where plans for further cooperation were agreed. The Albanian RC would like to translate and print the Federation manual "Making a Difference" into Albanian. The process depends on the funding situation both in the Regional Delegation and in the NS.

The Croatian Red Cross has also been working on integrating HIV/AIDS issues within its other health /care programme areas. A few cases of HIV positive blood donations were found in 2004. As the Croatian Red Cross is involved in providing technical support in the organisation of blood donor drives, the Red Cross took the initiative to provide information/education seminars for its blood donor recruiters on the issue of HIV/AIDS to increase knowledge and Red Cross capacity in this field. The outcomes of the seminars will be shared with other NSs in the region.

Expected Result 5: By the end of 2005, all NS will have Community Based First Aid activities based on clear strategic development and funding plans.

The NSs in the region have strong First Aid programmes that follow the European guidelines, although community based First Aid is only implemented on a small scale. During the first half of 2005, the NSs have organised national First Aid competitions in order for the winning teams to take part in the European First Aid Competition hosted by the Slovak RC. The 3rd EU Road Safety campaign will organise a tour around Europe. During the tour the Bulgarian RC and the Romanian RC will organise First Aid events. Commercial First Aid (e.g. First Aid training for new drivers) is increasingly creating local fund raising opportunities.

Expected Result 6: By the end of 2005, all NS have a system in place to provide Psychological Support services integrated with other health and care and disaster management activities (e.g. HIV/AIDS, TB, trafficking in human beings etc.)

The Regional Delegation continues to promote the inclusion of the components of Psychological Support in all health and care activities. Faced with the rapidly increasing HIV rates in Europe, the NSs need to engage in new methods in the HIV response. These include acting against stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) & TB patients, advocating for the treatment of all PLWHA and providing psychological support to the HIV & TB infected people and their families and communities. In September 2005, the Hungarian RC and the RD will organize the annual meeting of the European Network of Psychological Support (ENPS) in Budapest. This is one forum to further promote PSP and one which will be more easily accessible to NS from the region. The Bulgarian and Croatian RC have started to provide psychological support to the victims and family members of human trafficking. Experience will be shared with other NSs in the region to encourage planning of similar activities.

Impact:

NS capacity to plan and implement sustainable health and care activities continues to grow. The Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria has provided an opportunity for the NSs to be an active partner to the government in implementation of HIV/AIDS and/or TB programmes. The regular contacts with the Romanian Red Cross have strengthened the capacity of the NS and ensured successful implementation of the Global Fund for TB programme and improved collaboration with the Ministry of Health and National TB Institute. In general the NSs have improved relationships with local authorities (e.g. Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, National TB Institute, National Drug Prevention Centre). With the support of local authorities the role of the Red Cross as an auxiliary is recognised. Effective NS collaboration with local media is increasing with the resulting rise in public awareness for specific health related issues such as TB and HIV/AIDS.

Regional collaboration is increasing in the absence of official networks between NSs. Collaboration between the RC in Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo has started well in order to provide support and share experience. The Harm Reduction programme supported by the Italian RC has increased collaboration between the NSs. The feedback from the training at Villa Maraini in Rome was very positive, providing new ideas and challenges on how to improve and scale up the Drug Prevention/Harm Reduction programmes.

The Regional Delegation is continuing to develop the concept of a human resources roster to provide a more effective and efficient system to identify the people with specific skills and capacity in the region and to match through short-term consultancy arrangements with National Society needs. The issue was discussed and approved during the Leaders' Meeting in late May 2005 where the leaders from the region were present. This issue was to be discussed again with the Health Coordinators and PCD Coordinators in early July 2005. In the health and care area, this is focusing on National Society staff and volunteers with experience of project development, training, and campaign development: for example in developing harm reduction activities (Croatian Red Cross staff). In this way, the technical knowledge and experience within the region can be managed more effectively and ensures that people with knowledge of the cultural, social and economic context can coach colleagues in sister national societies and provide regular feedback during project development.

Constraints:

In all countries, the NSs are in contact with respective ministries of Health and when present also the co-ordinating body or agency for the response to HIV/AIDS and TB (where relevant) epidemic. In many countries of the region, generating political commitment and will towards HIV/AIDS, TB and Drug prevention activities has been slow. The political situation (e.g. old vs. new government) creates difficulties for NSs to maintain the connections with local authorities.

Some NSs (e.g. Albanian RC, RC of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Romanian RC) have a small number of staff at the headquarters restricting the opportunities for communication and coordination of activities in the country. In addition, project planning, implementation and evaluation requires human resources at the headquarters. However, Red Cross Youth Departments and the volunteers have the enthusiasm and interest to plan and implement

comprehensive HIV/AIDS, TB and Drug Prevention programmes that can help to keep the HIV and TB epidemic under control.

Health in emergencies needs to have an increased profile in the region. In disaster or emergency situations, NS DM and Health departments seem to work separately without joint planning. This integration would need more attention and time in the future.

The funding situation for the regional health and care programme is decreasing and it does not allow support to NSs on a large scale. In 2005 due to their status in the EU accession process, the Bulgarian RC and Romanian RC will face difficulties as previous sources of funding are no longer accessible. This will be a challenge to these NSs – to the Romanian RC in particular – to maintain and further develop their health and care programmes.

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 and regional cooperation.

The regional disaster response capacity was severely tested during the first 6 months, with snowfall and flood emergencies hitting six countries in the region. The regional disaster management coordinator has played a key role in coordinating regional disaster response team (RDRT) support where needs have outstripped capacity and in applying for support from the Secretariat's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and launching appeals where needed. RDRT members were deployed on assessment missions in all country - either local RDRT members (in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia & Montenegro) or from neighbouring countries (to Romania, Bulgaria).

Country	Type of Disaster	Response	Time and Targets	RC action
Albania	Heavy snowfalls	DREF – USD 50,000	January-February 500 families for 1 month	Food and hygiene distribution
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Heavy snowfalls	DREF - EURO 20,257	January – February 770 families for 1 month	Relief distribution
Bulgaria	Floods	Minor Emergency/DREF CHF 92,666	June 1,250 families for 1 month	Basic non-food items
Romania	Floods	Emergency Appeal CHF 1,055,000, including DREF	April 1,200 families for 6 months	Water, food and basic non - food items.
Romania	Floods	DREF/Minor Emergency: CHF 240,938,	July Up to 2,300 beneficiaries for 1 month	Non food items
Serbia & Montenegro	Heavy snowfalls	DREF CHF 113,910	February – March 2,600 families for 1 month	Food and hygiene parcels North/west Montenegro was particularly hard hit as was south west Serbia
Serbia & Montenegro	Floods	Emergency Appeal CHF 496,310, including DREF	April 4,000 beneficiaries for 6 months	Food and basic non-food items.

[<click here for Federation Europe page and links to countries and operation reports>](#)

Progress/Achievements against expected results:

Expected Result 1: By the end of 2005, all national societies in the region have updated their disaster preparedness (DP) plans, including contingency plans, within their respective national contexts.

The recent emergencies set out in the table above have been a test of the effectiveness of existing DP plans. Plans are being updated at regular intervals on the basis of any changes in legislation or administration and in the light of real life experiences. In general, plans in Albania, Romania and Serbia have proven their effectiveness in the above operations. The Red Cross of Montenegro continues to experience difficulties in the absence of clear roles and responsibilities at republic level (see below).



In the aftermath of the floods in Romania

As a result of the mobilisation efforts of the Albanian Red Cross (ARC) following the tsunami disaster, the Albanian government made available funding for the tsunami relief operation with USD 250,000 for the national society for disaster preparedness capacity building. This reflects the increased confidence and significance the disaster response work of the ARC enjoys with the state.

A round-table disaster simulation exercise was carried out in Tivat, Montenegro at the end of 2004, bringing together experienced people from the municipal office, health centre, police, civil protection, fire-brigade and Red Cross. The Federation introduced contingency planning models in an effort to encourage such planning locally. The lack of appropriate disaster preparedness and response plans is impeding otherwise excellent cooperation. This was once again shown during the heavy snowfalls in February-March 2005, where response was slow due to a lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities between the ministries, authorities, civil protection and the Red Cross. A meeting was held with the Montenegrin RC to look at how the situation can be used as a catalyst to begin to clarify these issues at a national level.

Expected Result 2: By the end of 2005, the regional disaster management plan is in place. In addition, disaster response mechanisms are in place at the regional delegation enabling it to be ready for prompt action.

In the aftermath of the tsunami disaster in South East Asia, the RD has been providing guidance and advice to national societies in responding to the disaster: in terms of funding, in kind contributions as well as staff. A total of four trained and experienced water and sanitation personnel from the Macedonian Red Cross joined Austrian Red Cross Wat/San ERUs on missions to Indonesia.

During a regional DM meeting in April work on the regional disaster management contingency plan was initiated, in line with European regionally structures and formats. The plan has been distributed for input from the Federation offices and delegations and national societies and will be finalized during the autumn.



Flood levels rise above house tops in Bulgaria

Expected Result 3: Close cooperation with the regional health and care, communication and organisational development programmes establishes a disaster management plan within national societies.

The Regional Disaster Response Team training (RDRT) in June 2005 was built around the standard modules, with an integrated approach from the side of the regional delegation in presenting health/care, communications and organisational development through Federation colleagues. The concept and added value of integrated planning and programme development was demonstrated to national society colleagues in this way.

Expected Result 4: The regional disaster response team (RDRT) staffing has been refreshed through training of new members and follow up training of old members by the end of 2005. Basic equipment has been purchased.

The first RDRT training in two years went ahead in Bulgaria in June 2005, bringing together 26 participants from 10 countries and 2 regions. The course drew participants from outside the South Eastern Europe region, strengthening cooperation with colleagues from the region covered by Anakara Regional Delegation (7 participants) and with colleagues from Central Asia and Israel. A total of 5 participants were from civil protection agencies around the region. The training took place close to the scene of severe flooding in districts in the capital, Sofia, and the north of the country. The planned disaster assessment simulation exercises were swiftly adapted into real life disaster assessment missions by the course participants to the areas hit by flooding. During the course of the training, an information bulletin, DREF application and minor emergency appeal were compiled and launched to initiate support to the Bulgarian Red Cross relief operation. This was a real time test of the participants' ability to put theory into an action and one which they managed well.

Expected Result 5: The regional disaster management programme is throughout 2005 providing continued support to national societies in their work with the Stability Pact DPPI.

An informal regional meeting on DPPI Stability Pact for South East Europe (SEE) was held in Racviac, Croatia, on 2 March 2005. An important topic was the transfer of the DPPI office from Brussels to the region. The exact location is being discussed: Bulgaria has made an offer and BiH has expressed interest. The selection of a new executive secretary was decided during the reporting period. The new Executive Secretary is from Belgrade and will be based in Sarajevo. The DPPI Action Plan 2002-2006 is based on the assumption that by the end of 2006 intra-regional and inter-country agreements on procedures, standards and disaster management concepts will be in place and that the objectives of the Initiative will continue to be pursued by the countries of South Eastern Europe. The main donors (Norway, Switzerland and the United States of America) have already pledged their contributions for 2005. While one of the main principles of DPPI is regional ownership, current DPPI activities are mostly financed by the international donor community. The main donors expressed their wish to continue with their support but called for more initiatives from the region in planning and co-financing activities, that countries in the region should be brought in line with EU Standards, and that closer cooperation with EU should be established.

Discussions around regional ownership of the initiative and the possibilities for financial contributions from the region continued at another regional DPPI meeting, in Sarajevo in April, hosted by the Ministry of Security of BiH. The Federation presented its plans for Regional Disaster Response Team training in Bulgaria in May and its intentions to invite participants from the DPPI countries.

Discussions also focused on the preparation of border crossing procedures and protocols to be used for rapid border crossing within the framework of the Stability Pact and DPPI and with the support of the East West Institute, and an inception meeting took place in Sarajevo in April to begin work on the protocols. Participants from Croatia, Serbia & Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina will encourage their governments to intensify work in this area and to identify experts to join the working group.

Expected Result 6: By the end of 2005, the Regional Delegation based on a community approach will have established a network of trainers in the region to support the use of VCA and PCD methodologies in NS.

The RD continues to develop its regional roster of staff and volunteers with sought after skills and experience, who can be mobilized as regional resources to address national society needs. The RD has asked national societies to contribute to the development of this roster by identifying personnel with the necessary skills and practical experience and to confirm their availability. This roster also includes persons with VCA training and experience. During the second half of the year, there are plans to develop new training modules for national society staff and volunteers, bringing together the various participatory community assessment and development methodologies in a simplified approach. Once the modules have been conceived, they can be introduced to national societies.

Expected Result 7: The Regional disaster management programme is throughout 2005 supporting the national societies in developing the communities' capacity to mitigate the impact of natural and manmade disasters when they occur.

A regional Disaster Management (DM) meeting was held in Sarajevo in April, bringing together DM coordinators from six of the seven countries covered by the Regional Delegation, as well as ICRC, RDRT members, Stability Pact, UNDP and civil protection representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Romanian RC was not represented. The meeting focused on the sharing of best practices from national societies including: DM structures and systems, vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), cooperation with civil protection and the winter snow storm response operations.

The Macedonian Red Cross is providing training for 6 new members of its Mountain Rescue team - all experienced mountain climbers and Red Cross volunteers. The NS is looking to the well developed Bulgarian Red Cross Mountain Rescue service for advice on a training programme and possibly sending participants to Bulgarian RC mountain rescue training.

Expected Result 8: The regional disaster management programme will support national societies in establishing contacts with relevant programmes within the EU (Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania).

An application to the Central European Initiative prepared in 2004 received a positive answer in the first quarter of 2005 and made funding available for the RDRT training. Due to the flood emergencies in Romania and Bulgaria, no specific work has yet been done under this area.

Expected Result 9: By the end of 2005, all national societies have a system in place to have psychological support services integrated with other health and care and disaster management activities.

During the RDRT training held in Bulgaria in June, a specific module was presented on psychological support in order to promote this component in disaster response planning. National societies are being encouraged to attend the annual meeting of the European Network of Psychological Support (ENPS) which will be held in Budapest in September 2005. This will be one forum to further promote PSP, and as it is being held in the region, it is hoped that reduced travel costs will enable more NS representatives to attend.

3. Humanitarian Values

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

4. Organisational Development

Goal: Well functioning National Societies providing quality services based on a clear mission and actively contributing to the development of Civil Society.

4.1 Objective: National Societies capacity in leadership, programme management, organizational, financial and resource development skills has been increased.

Progress/Achievements

Expected result 1: National Societies' governance and management have improved skills to lead and contribute to major change processes (currently Latvia, Poland, Romania).

Long term capacity building support to the Latvian, Polish and Romanian Red Cross continues to be the main focus of the RD's work in organisational development. Key lessons learnt from experience over the past three years show the need to tailor any support to the very different internal and external contexts for each National Society.

Romanian RC

The Romanian RC (RRC) is coming to the end of a 3-year programme funded by the Secretariat's Capacity Building Fund. Discussions are continuing about how to approach a new phase of sustainable cooperation with national and international partners. Maintaining momentum and planning the future direction for development will be the focus in the coming months. Although the capacity of the RRC to lead the change process has significantly increased over the past 3 years, the national society still faces a number of internal issues – including staff retention – which need to be addressed. An open, transparent and honest relationship built on trust has been developed between RRC governance and management and international partners. The Steering Committee has

been a key vehicle for this. RD support has been in the form of regular communication, information sharing, advice and organizing consultancy missions. The programme has been well managed and monitored by the national society and reporting – both narrative and financial – has been timely, clear and an excellent basis for planning next steps.

Latvian RC

Progress in the Latvian RC (LRC) has continued, according to the plan of action and the leadership and management have been a leading force. Communication and dialogue has remained open, transparent and honest between the national society and the RD. Part of the support has been in organizing consultancy arrangements where appropriate. At the beginning of the year the volunteer management development consultant working with the Secretariat in Geneva visited the Latvian RC, to work on the elements of a new volunteer management programme. The RD has also supported in other areas (fundraising, leadership training), developing at the same time its role as a resource centre, and matching information, experience and people with the national society's needs. On the recommendation of the RD, the LRC Secretary General participated at the leadership training event organized by the Secretariat in Geneva. The LRC organisational and branch development coordinator started the effective writing training course supported by the RD. The Steering Committee is used as a monitoring mechanism of the change process, and meetings have taken place at regular intervals. However, the committee could have a greater impact by having a broader composition from both within and outside the national society. The LRC is seriously considering this recommendation to include external and Movement partners including the ICRC.

Polish RC

After delays in implementation of the planned change process and major internal changes at the end of 2004, the new top management of the Polish Red Cross have reoriented the process and significantly increased the capacity to lead the process. Following key changes in staff and governance – including Director General and Vice-president – the NS Statutes have been revised (in accordance with Federation guidelines) introducing some new provisions related to the separation of governance and management, the role of the Director General and clearer roles and responsibilities at all layers of the Polish Red Cross network. These initiatives reflect a significant development in the national society's commitment to, and ownership of, the process. The process also now has broader support within both the headquarters and the branches. Some crucial and difficult decisions have been made – specifically in regard to the financial situation of some regional branches. Financial recovery plans for a number of regional branches and the headquarters is now the focus of both governance and management of the NS. Regular consultations with branches and visits to branches are now in place.

There have been some delays in implementation of other objectives in the plan, due to reorientation of the process and a need to broaden commitment and ownership throughout the national society. This has also been a learning process for the new management and corrections have been made regarding the finance development project and the tendering procedure for purchasing hard and soft ware for a unified chart of accounts. The structure and set-up of the headquarters has undergone some changes to develop a more departmental approach. New job descriptions have been developed for HQ staff and human resource development support will continue throughout the year.

The RD has been active through the process, advising and acting as a resource centre. The open and transparent relationship with the new management reflects the confidence and trust established. The RD has supported three key staff to participate in the 6 month correspondence effective writing training course, to further improve skills in this area. The Steering Committee of the change process has proved to be a useful and dynamic monitoring mechanism. The representation of major international partners on the Steering Committee has been helpful, enabling very live and open discussions together with key actors from the Polish Red Cross.

Expected result 2: National Societies' capacity to address governance and management needs at the branch level is increased (Albania, Latvia, Macedonia, Romania).

The planned Training of Trainers for Branch Governance was not organized regionally, but some National Societies have organized training locally. The Latvian Red Cross have been implementing training for a number of branches following a training for trainers in 2004. Training modules developed by Geneva have been adjusted and translated into Latvian. These changes are now available in English and can be used by other Societies.

The Romanian Red Cross organized training for their branches in 2004 and will continue this year. The RD supported this by engaging a trainer from its regional human resource pool.

The Macedonian Red Cross introduced Branch Governance training to newly elected branch Presidents in late 2004. Similar training for branch youth Presidents took place in January 2005, supported through Norwegian RC funding. A continuation of this training is planned for the 3rd quarter to help develop a clear division of governance and management at branch level. The RD will continue to support this activity by engaging its staff in the training.

During the first 6 months of 2005, the Albanian Red Cross focused on supporting branches to hold statutory meetings prior to the 8th session of the General Assembly held in June. These activities have all been supported by Norwegian RC funding. Support for branches will continue throughout the year to share best practice in project management skills as well as to prepare for NS elections to be held in 2006.

The Bulgarian Red Cross held a volunteer management development workshop for branch leaders in June. Financially supported by the Spanish RC, the workshop was part of an ongoing volunteer management development programme being implemented by the national society. The aim of the workshop was to look at how the national volunteering policy, adopted in 2004, can be implemented at regional and local level and what additional support or guidelines are required by the branches. The Secretariat's volunteering consultant participated at the workshop together with the programme coordinator from the RD. The RD will continue to support the national society in developing practical implementation guidelines for branches.

Expected result 3: Independently well functioning regional youth networking providing valuable input to National Societies and regional programme development (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro).

The Bulgarian, Macedonian, Romanian and Serbian & Montenegro National Societies were supported to participate at the European Cooperation Meeting (ECM) of the European RC/RC Youth held in Vienna in May. During a sub-regional group meeting of the Central and Eastern European youth network, national societies requested Federation support to encourage NS leadership to recognize the need for and investment in volunteer management, as well as practical tools for recruitment and management. Youth leaders would also like to see greater youth participation in Federation statutory meetings such as the General Assembly in Seoul in November and the Moscow Conference of 2006. The Macedonian Red Cross, Youth President Vesna Petkovska, was elected as a member of the European Coordination Committee, which will manage follow up to the ECM and coordinate initiatives and communication between ECM meetings.

The youth network functions at a very basic and unofficial level without any coordination from the Federation side. National Societies are cooperating when real need exists and based on personal relationships. The capacity of the Regional Delegation to coordinate this network is limited and the concept of a self-managing network will be reconsidered in the future. Informal networking exists between youth from the branches throughout the region, although again the capacity of national societies to coordinate this appears to be weak.

The RD will continue to support two major youth campaigns (Hunger Day and World Aids Day anti stigma) later in the year. Although efforts to put forward a regional application for funding to the Council of Europe to support these campaigns was unsuccessful in April, it is hoped that with more time and further discussions an application will be ready for the next round in October.

Expected result 4: National Societies are actively adapting and using a variety of fundraising techniques, integrated into programme design and planning to increase their in-country fundraising activities.

In the aftermath of the tsunami disaster in South East Asia, the national societies in the region proved their increased capacity to mobilize funds from public, corporate and state sources. National Societies, which in the past have been major recipients of international humanitarian assistance, very swiftly shifted their position to one of donor societies. The Regional Delegation supported this process, providing guidelines and advice on how to address donors as well as the mechanics of contributing to international appeals. These achievements are remarkable in view of the still very fragile socio-economic situation in some countries. Red Cross Societies in Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia and Romania altogether collected more than CHF 3 million in cash and

kind. The national societies in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro also made major resource mobilization efforts. Campaigns were managed in a transparent way. The Romanian RC posted all donors on their web page, whilst the Macedonian RC organized a large press conference at the end of the campaign to inform donors how the money will be spent.

The RD has continued to provide information about different fundraising tools and global partnership opportunities. The Electronic Resource Alliance Newsletter is regularly passed to national societies. New potential partnerships in the area of fundraising training have been considered – primarily with Civil Society Development Foundation, based in Budapest. The RD will support interested national societies from the region to participate at a conference to be organized by the foundation in Budapest in November. This will be an excellent opportunity for national societies to be exposed to the experience and skills of other organisations working in the humanitarian field and with similar external conditions. The RD will also support participation at the international Skillshare meeting in Amsterdam in October where appropriate.

National Societies in the region continue to experience difficulties in retaining fundraising personnel. The issue of realistic expectations on fundraising units and personnel from both leadership and other programme managers needs to be addressed to find a sustainable model. All too often the fundraising department is expected to raise all the money needed rather than looking at how it can support a team effort based on what the national society is doing, its beneficiaries, and services. The expectations from government funding are also high, although this is unlikely to reach the levels enjoyed under previous state regimes. Funding statistics gathered during the first 6 months point to a continuing reliance on international funding in certain national societies, whilst others have been able to develop a more diverse funding base. Unless otherwise indicated, data is for 2004

National Society	International Funding	Government funding	Local private donations	Membership fee	Income generation	Other
Albania	68%	0%	5%	8%	5%	14%
Bulgaria	34%	24%	8%		33%	1%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	99%					1%
Croatia*	32%	11%	1%		46%	10%
Latvia*	54%	9%	20%		17%	
Macedonia*	26%	43%	1%		29%	1%
Poland*	3%	28%	5%		62%	2%
Romania	7%	5%	50%		9%	29%
Serbia and Montenegro*	76.93%	11.80%	1.20%		4.87%	5.20%

* Data for 2003.

At the same time the number of National Societies conducting regular external audit has increased, indicating an understanding of the need for transparency and accountability as a major precondition for successful fund-raising.

National Society	External audit 2003	External audit 2004
Albania	Yes	Yes
Bulgaria	Yes	Yes
Bosnia and Herzegovina	No	No
Croatia	Yes	Yes
Latvia	No	No
Macedonia	Yes	TBC
Poland	Yes	Yes
Romania	Yes	Yes
Serbia and Montenegro	Yes	Yes

Expected result 5: The National Societies have the knowledge, skills and confidence to access new sources of funding and to develop long term funding opportunities.

The RD has started to play a bigger role as a source of information about new funding opportunities available under different funding schemes (European Union, Council of Europe, etc.). National Societies are regularly informed about relevant calls for proposals and technical support is offered to national societies to develop applications. Although national society skills in project planning and proposal writing are well developed, many of the calls are for larger amounts of money (up to 1 million EURO or more). This raises the question of the national societies' capacity to manage any successful application. However, by encouraging national societies to come together in partnership – a specified requirement in a growing number of EU related calls – the applications may be of a more manageable scale.

Many Western European National Societies have participated in brokering this kind of cooperation with NS from the region. The Netherlands, Danish, Spanish Red Cross together with Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross applied for activities related to Roma population; French Red Cross together with Albanian Red Cross have applied for CARDS funding. To date the majority of these applications have been on the initiative of the Western European NS rather than the NS of the region. A recent call for proposals for civil society networking for Bulgaria and Romania is still under discussion between the two NS. The Italian RC has been encouraging an application within the field of HIV/AIDS and harm reduction

In order to better understand the reluctance of the national societies to apply for such external funds, and in order to address the knowledge, experience or skills gaps, a meeting is planned in the early autumn to look at the issues with a range of national societies – both old and new EU NS as well as current accession status NS.

Constraints

The main constraints remain in the area of human resource capacity, turnover and restructuring needs for the Romanian Red Cross. Staff turnover is also an issue facing the Latvian Red Cross. Legal decisions on court cases linked to Latvian RC property, including the headquarters came during the reporting period. Although still involving a financial burden for the national society, the level will be lower than expected. Financial recovery planning for the Polish RC headquarters and branches has not yet been resolved and continues to have an impact on other elements of the change process. The death in June of the secretary general of the Macedonian Red Cross was a distressing time for the national society. The appointment of a successor has not yet been decided. This will have consequences for the development process the secretary general had initiated: both in terms of timing and in directions, which will need to be reconfirmed by his successor.

4.2 Branch and Participatory Community Development (PCD)

Objective: National Societies have the skills and knowledge to use participatory approaches in addressing and responding to new and existing vulnerabilities .

Expected Result 1: Where implemented, PCD is an effective tool to empower vulnerable communities in the region, including potential and actual victims of human trafficking.

The PCD programme focuses on using participatory methodology to facilitate community action and to strengthen branch capacity to identify and meet the needs of the most vulnerable communities, particularly Roma people, refugees, migrants and other marginalised groups.

By the end of June 2005, the third round of PCD implementation in Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro and Macedonia, had reached the point of planning and designing the micro-projects within the selected local communities, after the PRA trainings and field work had been completed.

Country	Branches	Projects
Bulgaria	Yambol region: Veselinovo village	Building a RC structure in the community uniting Bulgaria and Roma communities RC youth unit formed engaging in cultural and sports activities in the community
	Razgrad, Silistra, Vratza, Haskovo, Burgas	In a second round of PCD: to review changes to community life so far and new or outstanding needs.

Macedonia	Valandovo, Radovis, Kicevo and Demir Hisar	PRA trainings in February, community field work in March/April, followed by data analysis, large group work. Currently work on designing the micro-projects is continuing.
Romania	Harghita branch: Fancel, Ulcani, Tamasu, Sancrai, Tibod and Dealu .	Health prevention and First Aid trainings and seminars. Prevention of HIV/AIDS and healthy lifestyles promotion
Serbia and Montenegro	In Serbia: Paracin and Kikinda In Montenegro: Bar	Introduction of combination of PCD methodology and needs assessment project material Design of micro projects is ongoing.

Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC)

The BRC has been using PCD facilitators from within the national society, who already have practical experience of the process, to share their knowledge with other interested communities as well as to develop their own individual skills by taking on new roles within PCD. BRC staff and volunteers from two new Red Cross branches (Varna and Gabrovo regional branches) are taking part in the PCD process in Veselinovo, to learn about it from practice before they start the process in their own communities. Two other Red Cross persons (regional director from Silistra and regional branch Burgas) with experience in PCD were involved as facilitators in the process.

The Bulgarian RC has also started a pilot PCD programme with migrants living in Sofia region. By the end of June 2005 initial meetings and PCD trainings had been carried out. A PCD pilot programme in the field of prevention of human trafficking has been prepared and implementation will start in September.

Macedonian Red Cross (MRC)

Four new branches were involved in the latest round of PCD: Valandovo, Radovis, Kicevo and Demir Hisar. The target groups in the communities are amongst the most vulnerable population, predominantly Roma people, living with other ethnic groups in very difficult socio-economic conditions.

Meetings have been organized, bringing together new and more experienced PCD coordinators to provide detailed information about past activities and achievements within PCD and to look at ideas for future implementation of the project in Macedonia.

The experience of MRC has shown that involvement of the PCD team and the members of the community in the implementation of the micro projects was an important element for success within any given micro-project. Participation in both community life and decision making, which impacts on the community, is key.

The implementation of the programme enabled the development of a sense of joint work for all members in the community.

Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro

Three RC branches/communities were selected for PCD process implementation in this new round: Paracin and Kikinda in Serbia, and Bar in Montenegro. During this latest round of PCD implementation, the national coordinator has used a combination of two methodologies: PCD - a tried and tested effective approach - and the Needs Assessment Project, using best practices from the pilot project, which was implemented in the national society during 2004. It is hoped that integration of the two methodologies will produce some new and even more effective results in reaching out to vulnerable people in local communities. In all three municipalities selected for PCD implementation, the target groups are amongst the most vulnerable people living in dire conditions. Most of these people are from Roma communities, but also include members of other ethnic groups as well as people living with disabilities.

Hungarian RC and Romanian RC Twinning Cooperation

The Romanian Red Cross Harghita branch is the main implementing party in the twinning project. The Romanian Red Cross HQ is monitoring and supervising the process and the Hungarian Red Cross PCD coordinator is

professionally supporting the twinning PCD programme. The twinning programme takes place in the region of Romania where a majority of the population is of Hungarian ethnic origin. Therefore, Romanian and Hungarian Red Cross staff are working together without language barriers. By April 2005, the PCD process including the micro-project implementation was completed in Atia, Valea lui Pavel, Jolotca, Fagetel-Eseneu, Sanmartin and Ciucsangeorgi (Bancu).

The PCD programme in Harghita region has been receiving excellent media coverage. The Branch Director has established contact with an international media company and has signed a Protocol of Cooperation with "Interfilm Studio-Odorhei", working for Romanian and foreign broadcasts. Their task is to present the whole process of PCD in Harghita region in the form of short films, photo-albums and presentations on CD-ROM, which can be used as a tool for advocating on behalf of the vulnerable and can help communities in accessing the funds for new micro-projects. Harghita community received funding from the EU in response to their project proposal. As a result of the media coverage, neighbouring local councils and mayors have shown an interest in the PCD programme. The Roma community of Eliseni was also included in the programme in this way.

A workshop organised by the Romanian RC HQ, and supported by the Swiss RC, in April 2005 was an opportunity for the Harghita Branch Director to present the programme to other regional branch directors. Six will be trained and introduced to the programme with the support of the Harghita branch PCD team and a project proposal has been submitted to the Swiss RC for possible funding.

Hungarian RC

The Hungarian RC held a conference in March gathering local PCD coordinators, stakeholders and members of respective communities looking into previous experience and lessons learned during PCD implementation in 2004, as well as discussing the future development of the programme. The meeting produced new ideas and guidelines for the future which will be shared with other NSs. The next round of the PCD programme started in June and will be finalised by the end of this year, involving new RC branches.

Impact

As a result of the implemented projects and knowledge of the methodology and participatory needs assessment process, National Societies have increased their capacities to identify existing vulnerabilities and to work with vulnerable people. The PCD programme has contributed to community based social and health-education programmes and has promoted social inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups. The programme provides new skills to both the community and the local RC branch staff and volunteers and creates new partnerships on a local and national level. The future of the programme will see more integration of the PCD components in other programmes such as health/care, as well as implementation of the PCD methodology in programmes with forced migrants and in the area of combating human trafficking. The PCD team established in the region will be acting as a pool of experts available for other NSs who would like to apply the PCD methodology, using the PCD package developed at the RD. The PCD concept has proven to be an excellent tool to sustain locally designed and managed projects for the benefit of Roma and other vulnerable groups, according to the Red Cross principles and values and which has an extended impact on the general situation of the respective countries. After several years of PCD programme implementation, National Societies in the region have gained knowledge and developed skills to work effectively with the vulnerable communities on a branch level including working with the Roma communities. PCD methodology has been increasingly integrated in the NSs core activities such as health and social welfare.

Expected Result 2: The regional PCD coordinators' team is a mechanism for making best use of participatory approaches in national societies

The PCD package, consisting of the Tool Kit, Manual, and PRA, was finalised at the beginning of 2005 and is available for wider use. The PCD package and experienced PCD practitioners from the region are available to provide advice and share experience with interested NSs and Federation Delegations from other regions within and outside Europe. Any agreement on deployment to assist other national societies through short term missions will be managed by the regional delegation through the regional resource roster and system which is being developed. The team has also provided significant input to an initiative to develop guidelines for working with Roma programmes. This initiative has been driven by a need for greater coordination in submitting proposals to EU funding sources for national society work with Roma in the region. Based on discussions during a meeting in Belgrade in April, bringing together four national societies from the region with the Danish, Norwegian and

Spanish RC, it was decided that the Roma programming experience in the region can support other Red Cross initiatives in working with marginalized groups. The Danish RC is supporting the development of guidelines, by providing funding and a consultant, who will work with experienced PCD coordinators.

Expected Result 3: National Societies have benefited from twinning, networking and/or other partnership opportunities to further develop PCD.

The PCD experience from Europe was presented during a local capacity building forum workshop held in East Africa in March and was well received. The impact of working **with** communities and not **for** communities was apparent in the results presented from Europe. Requests for more information and support in using PCD in other countries have been received (Armenia, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Myanmar, Panama) and will be followed up during the next six months.

The PCD coordinator from the Bulgarian RC participated in a meeting of the Participatory Community and Social Mobilisation Working Group at the Federation Secretariat in January 2005. The purpose of the group is to define and document how RC Societies use participatory community and social mobilization to deliver their programmes to the most vulnerable.

In June, the Secretariat, together with the Swedish Red Cross, organized a meeting on “Volunteers in Branch and Community” as a contribution to the "Our Federation of the Future" (FoF) process. PCD was presented as one approach to ensure that the FoF process addresses and involves communities and volunteers based on well founded field experience.

4.3 Population Movement

The population movement programme has previously been included in the disaster management section of the appeal. However, as the approach used in this programme is one of community participation, it was decided to integrate this programme within the participatory community development section of the appeal. Support is provided for implementation of this programme in Croatia through the regional participatory community development coordinator. Similar population movement programmes are being implemented in Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the national societies working closely with the Federation delegations there.

Objective: Multi-ethnic local communities within the return area of Croatia have increased their capacities to integrate the most vulnerable returnee families and to ensure basic conditions for sustainable return.

The Community Mobilisation Project in Croatia aims to assist returnees in building up their lives back in their places of origin after several years of displacement, by working with the multi-ethnic communities on a branch level. The project assists returnees in Croatia, and other vulnerable individuals within the local communities in return areas, with small community mobilisation projects, tailored to the needs of the community through participatory engagement, and organizes inter-ethnic social activities within the Red Cross branches, promoting Red Cross principles and reconciliation.

During the first six months of 2005, small projects were implemented for the benefit of returnees and other vulnerable groups in 5 RC branches (Dvor, Topusko, Novska, Benkovac and Donji Lapac) in a community-based and participatory manner. The activities implemented were those selected by the community members in cooperation with all stakeholders.

In each community, as a consequence of programme implementation, new links were established between the communities and the local institutions and NGOs, thereby addressing more needs by mobilising all available resources, beyond the scope of this project. This has promoted and ensured sustainability of return and has contributed to the rebuilding of community networks and to the re-establishment of “safety nets” serving the most vulnerable members regardless of which ethnic group or category they belong to.

5. Coordination, Advocacy and Humanitarian Values

This section reflects the integration of humanitarian values, advocacy and coordination functions in a smaller regional delegation in 2005. 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 2005.

Goal: The situation of the most vulnerable communities in South Central Europe is improved.

Objective: The role of South Central European national societies in voicing and responding to the needs of the most vulnerable groups in the region is recognized, supported and strengthened.

Progress/Achievements:

Expected Result 1: Appropriate technical expertise is made available in a timely manner responding to national society requests.

The Regional Delegation has been developing over the last years a unique human resource set up, based on the principles of the regional recruitment programme. From an essentially delegate-heavy delegation in the mid-90s, at present all technical programme coordinator positions (disaster management, health and care, organizational development, participatory community development) are held by regionally recruited staff. The added value of this set up has proved itself over the years – in terms of working languages, cultural appropriateness and awareness, capacity building and bringing the Federation closer to the national societies.

To take this development further a roster of resource persons from the region (national society and Federation staff and volunteers) has been built up, to provide a pool from which expert practitioners in specific fields can be matched with national society requests for assistance. During the second quarter of 2005, the RD has been taking steps to formalize this arrangement. The initiative was briefly presented at the leaders meeting in May 2005 and met with the approval of national society leadership. A mapping exercise continues requesting input to the roster in terms of persons with proven practical experience in specific areas. An administrative system is being designed to support the deployment of personnel on short term missions, as well as a process to ensure further training and skills updating opportunities for personnel on the roster. The RD will be seeking further support from donors to ensure that funding is available to deploy people from the roster when required.

Expected Result 2: National Societies are recognized as prominent actors in the strengthening of civil society and as dialogue partners on national and regional vulnerability issues.

During the first quarter of 2005, a special edition of *The Bridge* magazine was launched focusing on the issue of the victims of human trafficking. Although by no means a new phenomena, it was felt that because trafficking feeds upon exploitation of vulnerable people and that its reach spreads across the whole of Europe from east to west a special edition of the *Bridge* could try to address the lack of information available to the public in European countries.

The timing of this edition also coincided with the anniversary of the Red Cross European Cooperation against Human Trafficking, an initiative from the Danish RC to exchange ideas and information between NS active in this area. The main aim was, however, to show the work of Red Cross NS in partnership with other organizations. It also aimed to raise awareness amongst the general public in European countries about what trafficking is, what it is not, and how it is a problem that should be thought of as relevant and concerning to all people in Europe. The Red Cross National Societies of Britain, Croatia, the Netherlands and Norway, as well as the ICRC financially supported the project, with contributions of expertise and knowledge coming from the ICRC and the Albanian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Danish, French, Moldovan, Norwegian and Ukrainian Red Cross. The RD coordinated the project, with an editor in London and with the support of Federation delegations and offices in Minsk, Kiev and Moscow. To reach a domestic audience and to be useful to National Societies in their workshops and seminars, *the Bridge* was translated into three other languages: Bulgarian, Romanian and Russian.

A tangible measure of how *the Bridge* has helped to get the work of the NSs recognized is in a speech made by Joy Muller, IFRC International Representation Officer, at the Interpol Working Group on Trafficking in Women in May 2005. Presenting the magazine, Ms Muller highlighted the work of the Bulgarian, Danish and Ukrainian

Red Cross NSs and stressed that their work was in partnership with other organizations and agencies. To have *the Bridge* available in such an attractive, professional format for a meeting of this kind is invaluable. It is hoped that future editions of *the Bridge*, devoted to crucial issues in society that the Red Cross is addressing will be available at the international conferences and meetings that will be organised this year and next.

The proof of whether *the Bridge* really does reflect the reality of human trafficking, is an accurate portrayal of the work of the NSs and is interesting to read will come from the feedback forms sent out to the 52 European Red Cross NSs together with the magazine. The feedback is being coordinated by the Europe department at the Secretariat, and should be available soon.

Constraints

In terms of constraints, the major one was in obtaining funding for the project. Individual donors were asked whether they would be interested in contributing, which as a one-off exercise proved effective, but was extremely time consuming. The Secretariat has recognized this and launched the Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities appeal in 2005, including mention of future editions of *the Bridge*. However, to date, there have been no contributions for this appeal. We would urge donors to contribute to ensure that a further edition of *The Bridge* can go ahead in 2005.

In addition, all NS in the region are planning regular awareness and advocacy campaigns to fight stigma and discrimination linked to HIV/AIDS and TB. The results of these plans can be seen in the range of activities carried out to mark World TB Day and 8 May.

Expected Result 3: Strategic partnerships with government, UN agencies, organisations and authorities provide a basis for more effective resource management and mobilisation and benefit national society programmes.

Within the area of health and care, key partners are Global Fund, ministries of health, national HIV/AIDS and TB institutes, People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). The output has been new funding sources as well as expert resource persons for programme development.

Within disaster management, key partners are civil protection, Stability Pact and DPPI, as well as ministries and local authorities. The output has been funding for DP programmes and effective implementation in emergencies.

A new potential partnership in the area of fundraising training is being considered with Civil Society Development Foundation, based in Budapest. The RD will support interested national societies from the region to participate at a conference to be organized by the foundation in Budapest in November. Discussions have also begun with Aveco - an association of chief executives of voluntary organizations - to look at developing cooperation and a platform for experience exchange with national society and other NGO leaders in the region.

Expected Result 4: National societies in Europe use RC partnership networks to strengthen capacity in programme delivery through experience, know-how and expertise exchange.

The Regional Delegation took a decision not to hold the traditional partnership meeting in the region in 2005. In February 2005, a Europe wide partnership meeting was hosted in Geneva, bringing together national societies from the region with key national society partners and donors. Rather than duplicate such a meeting, the RD brought together the leaders from the region (management and governance) at the end of May. Preparations for the General Assembly and Council of Delegates in Seoul, the Federation of the Future process, the new policy on integrity, and regional planning priorities were the focus of discussions. This was the first time in over four years that leaders have met on their own with the Federation representatives to focus on discussions outside of a broader partnership theme. The Bulgarian Red Cross has offered to host a follow up leaders meeting in Sofia in early autumn, prior to the General Assembly, to further prepare for the statutory meetings and elections, as well as to discuss other issues.

There are plans to take up the partnership theme with a number of national societies who would like to address the wider issue of relationship development. New thinking around the Cooperation Assistance Strategy (CAS) is being introduced to national societies (Albania, Macedonia and Romania) to see where and how this can fit within the organisational development issues of the respective national societies, in order to best serve relationships development.

Please see expected result 1 above, for how the RD is developing a more formalized system to ensure that resources are available to strengthen programme capacity. In addition to the regional roster development, each regional programme coordinator at the RD has a crucial role to play in identifying and listening to national society needs and matching with appropriate support. During the first 6 months RC partnership and exchange in the region has included:

Technical Area	National Societies and Local RC involved	Comment
Disaster Management	Bulgaria/Romania/Croatia/Macedonia	RDRT deployed for assessment
Health/Care	RC of Kosova /Albanian RC /Macedonian RC	Development of HIV/AIDS programmes
	Albanian and Macedonian RC	Blood donor programmes
Participatory Methodologies	Bulgaria/Kosovo	Within British RC project

Expected Result 5: Advocacy materials are made available to various partners, agencies, organisations and authorities.

Please see expected result 2 above on the Bridge magazine, which has been the key advocacy material produced during the first six months of 2006