

ANNUAL REPORT



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

3 May 2006

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA066; Annual Report; Period covered: January - December 2005

Appeal target: CHF 1,999,357 (USD 996,890 or EUR 781,845); Appeal coverage: 111 % (*Please click here to go directly to the attached Financial Report*).

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Central Europe Annual Appeal 2005. For details please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA066.pdf

Central Europe Annual Appeal 2005 – Programme Update no.1. For details please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA06601.pdf

Central Europe Annual Appeal 2005 – Programme Update no.2. For details please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA06602.pdf

Annual Appeals 2005 for Europe and Central Asia region. For details please see the website at <http://www.ifrc.org/where/europe.asp>

Central Europe Annual Appeal 2006-2007. For details please see the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA66001.pdf

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

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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 183 countries.

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For ore information please access the Federation website at: www.ifrc.org

Overall Analysis

The terrifying images from the tsunami-hit region of South East Asia were a vivid reminder, at the beginning of 2005, of the destruction which can be wrought by natural disaster. In Central Europe in 2005, it was the pictures of whole villages submerged by flooding, of houses completely destroyed by flash floods and of families seeking refuge on roofs, which acted as a reminder to communities throughout the region that no-one is beyond the reach of nature. In 2005 regional delegation support focused on the National Societies of south central Europe (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia & Montenegro) as well as support for ongoing organizational development processes in the Latvian and Polish Red Cross.

Ten minor emergency or emergency appeals were launched in 2005 to assist those affected by floods and snow fall. National Society (NS) disaster response mechanisms were put to the test, as some branches faced relief operations on a scale they had never experienced previously. Ongoing evaluation of these operations has shown the need to scale up work with National Societies in preparing for disaster: through community based approaches in branches, clarifying roles and responsibilities nationally and locally and building branch capacity in disaster response.

The flooding also revealed the difficult position for Romania and Bulgaria as EU accession status countries, where funding through EU country governments has stopped, although new in-country funding mechanisms are not yet in place. EU accession features high on the agenda for all NS in the region, eager to learn from the previous accession round, and to prepare internally to meet new standards in programming and financial regulation which should open up new funding sources.

In the wake of the tsunami, National Societies in the region demonstrated the trust they enjoy amongst the general public and government in the unprecedented funds collected for the victims of the tsunami. In addition to funds, trained and experienced disaster response team members were also deployed to assist sister NSs both within the region (floods in Romania) and across continents (Pakistan earthquake operation). Using the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) model, a participatory community development (PCD) expert from the Bulgarian RC will be assisting the Tajikistan Red Crescent in introducing PCD in local communities. This development demonstrates how far NS trust the knowledge and expertise, which has been developed in the region over the past decade.

With major contributions to the appeal confirmed by early June – including Swedish government/RC, Norwegian government/RC, Finnish and British RC funding– activities were able to continue according to plan in the second half of the year. However, the figure of 111 per cent appeal coverage, does not show the imbalance in funding between programmes, and does not indicate under funding in some key areas. Attention needs to be drawn to the case of the regional health and care programme. With the support of only one major donor – the Norwegian Red Cross – the health care programme activities risk being limited to HIV/AIDS and TB activities. Funding is urgently required to ensure that the health care coordinator can continue her mission and support National Society work, particularly with the emergence of Avian Influenza, and in ensuring safe blood supply, the integration of psycho-social support elements in health and disaster preparedness programmes, as well as building capacities in emergency health response. Funding is also urgently sought for *The Bridge* magazine, to ensure planned issues in 2006 can go ahead.

Central and Eastern European experience and expertise in applying participatory community development approaches was very much a focus of the year. This experience has been shared more widely in the region, across programmes (health and DM) and beyond the region - in Africa. To take forward the work on developing guidelines for best practice in working with Roma communities, a consultant was contracted by the Danish RC and visited Federation delegations in the region as well as NSs, to draw together the expertise and experience of the participatory community development (PCD) practitioners and of Roma kindergarten projects in Serbia & Montenegro. PCD was introduced to two new NS – the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Croatian Red Cross.

In Organizational Development the focus has been on continuing support to change processes in Latvian, Polish and Romanian RC, as well as developing the potential for knowledge sharing and expertise exchange in the region. Following a knowledge sharing meeting in 2004 for NS involved in planned change processes, the

regional delegation organized a similar meeting but with a much wider scope. Some 40 participants from 15 countries gathered in Budapest in early December to share their knowledge, through self-organized working group sessions led by National Society participants. The meeting embraced participants from outside the region, including Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The International Federation's General Assembly and the subsequent Movement Council of Delegates took place in Seoul in November 2005. Federation and NS preparations in the region included two leaders meetings for governance and management, which were held in Budapest in May and October 2005. NS leaders provided valuable input to the planning process for the Federation's future in Europe – including Moscow Conference preparations, as well as looking at what 'Our Federation of the Future' could mean in a European context. A second edition of *The Bridge* magazine in 2005 was finalized in time for distribution at Seoul, with a focus on health and care issues – particularly TB- as one of the key threats to health in the region.

Health and care

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

Objective: The capacity of the National Societies of South Central Europe (SCE) to provide quality health and care services to the most vulnerable is increased.

While the Norwegian Government and Red Cross contribution has enabled the RD to contribute to the National Societies' increased capacity in responding to HIV/AIDS and TB, funds were not available to equally cover other health and care fields. Although activity funding is lacking, the RD has continued to provide advice, consultation and coaching to NS in the fields of safe blood supply, first aid and psychological support.

Additionally, the RD has responded to the appearance of Avian Influenza (AI) among wild birds and poultry, with cases being reported throughout the region. The RD has provided support to NS and coordinated information sharing. During a disaster management meeting for the Romanian RC branches organized in October, the regional health and care coordinator presented possible aspects of a RC role in case of a pandemic. All governments in the region have prepared plans of action in case of an AI pandemic. The RC of Serbia and Montenegro has defined roles and responsibilities in case of pandemic, as a partner to the responsible government body. The RD has been encouraging NSs to further develop cooperation with their governments in this and other health issues.

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.

Actual Result

All seven NS from the region participated at the ERNA conference in Kiev, Ukraine, in September. Discussions around HIV/AIDS and TB clearly raised the importance of building even stronger partnerships on a national level, and involvement in regional networks. The RD is supporting NSs in establishing further contacts with the organizations of People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Discussions with the World Health Organization (WHO) representative for the Balkans focused on drawing directions for common work and on WHO's support to the NSs in their respective country coordination mechanism (CCM) of the Global Fund. With continuous efforts, NSs are improving their partnership with respective authorities on both local and national level.

During the year NSs developed short-term plans on HIV/AIDS and TB. The RD was involved in the development of these plans, as well as in the plans and work on drug prevention and harm reduction (HR), and has supported parts of their implementation (see Table 1). The Romanian RC and the RC of Serbia and Montenegro succeeded in accessing the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). Both the Federation Secretariat and the RD provided technical support to the NSs in preparing and implementing the plan of action for TB projects and in discussions with Ministries of Health (MoH) and GFATM representatives. The Serbian RC is implementing a TB project in partnership with the government, while the Romanian RC has formed a working group with the MoH to

define roles and responsibilities for joint work. The Macedonian RC and RC of Bosnia and Herzegovina are members of the ir country's coordination mechanism, but have not yet defined their role in the implementation of the programme funded by GFATM.

The Romanian RC has attracted local donor support - pharmaceutical company *Eli Lilly* – for a project with multi drug resistant (MDR) TB patients, their families and the general public.

Table 1. RD's involvement and support to NSs in HIV/AIDS, TB and HR issues

RC NS	HIV / AIDS	TB	Harm Reduction (HR) and drug prevention
Albania	Education on TB through existing HIV/AIDS peer education. Stress on early TB detection and TB treatment.	Education on TB through existing HIV/AIDS peer education. Stress on early TB detection and TB treatment	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Campaign with information sessions for public promoting DOTS for TB control	
Bulgaria			Partnership with governments in 5 biggest towns. Networking with relevant NGOs and institutions. New programme in Stara Zagora
Croatia			Lead NS in HR. Facilitation of seminar on HR for Central Asia NS. Participation at Global Health Forum, Geneva.
Macedonia	Branches conducting youth courses on HIV/AIDS and drug related harm	x	Training of staff and volunteers on the local branch level
Romania		-Support in preparing PoA for implementation of TB project funded through GFATM. -MDR TB patient project funded by local donor.	
Serbia and Montenegro		TB control programme implemented in collective centres and with five Roma communities, funded through GFATM Support of campaign	

The Red Cross NS of Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia Lithuania, and Macedonia have strengthened their capacities in drug prevention and harm reduction programmes thanks to participation at the Villa Maraini Foundation training. Staff and volunteers trained within the Foundation are part of the regional resource pool available to provide support in harm reduction throughout the Europe region and beyond. A lead NS in the region is Croatian RC, with two communities involved in needle exchange programmes and information sharing with various stakeholders. The Latvian RC opened a new youth centre, which incorporates a needle exchange point, psychological therapy and support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), drug users and their families. The Lithuanian RC has several promotional activities focusing on HR.

Constraint

Much work remains to be done to ensure that NS work in the field of HIV/AIDS and TB is carried out in a clear, long term strategic framework and in close cooperation with government organizations and NGOs.

Future

The Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria is an important funding source for the NSs in the region. The newly approved funds from the Fund for the countries in the region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro) require active lobbying from the NS for their inclusion in projects supported by the Fund. This involves approaching MoHs with quality proposals on behalf of vulnerable people. The Regional Delegation will continue working with NS by providing the Federation guidelines and policies in the field of health, HIV and TB and by supporting regional cooperation and exchange of experience. Plans are already made for the NS of Albania, Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro to visit the Russian RC in early 2006 to learn from its TB programming experience.

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.

Actual Result

The Global Anti-stigma campaign was presented by the Federation during the last ERNA meeting in September. As a result, all NS made plans for awareness and advocacy campaigns to fight stigma and discrimination linked to HIV/AIDS and TB. The outcome of these plans was evident during World TB Day in March, and World AIDS Day in December. NSs of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro received support to organize public awareness campaigns to mark World TB day and world AIDS day. Spreading HIV/AIDS and TB prevention information to the general public mainly by youth representatives was the focus of the campaigns. Both opportunities were used for advocacy activities against stigma and discrimination at a local level. All of these occasions were well covered by national media, showing the impact of the NS work.

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 trafficking in human beings etc.

Actual Result

As a result of long-term discussions on the inclusion of the PCD approaches in other programmes and strong lobbying by the PCD coordinators in their countries, participatory methodologies were introduced in two NSs in the region. The Serbian RC has used a participatory methodology in its TB control and Home Care programme, while the Macedonian RC has used the methodology in developing its health promotion programme. Discussions on how to include communities even more closely in programme planning continue in the Macedonian RC.

Constraint

The integration of the PCD methodology within NS health and care programmes is a long process. Besides changing the way of working by trying new approaches, health and care staff need more clarification and training on using such approaches.

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.

Actual Result

The regional task force on Voluntary, Non-remunerated Blood Donor Recruitment (VNBDR) is not working effectively due to the lack of ownership by the NSs. The task force members were not interested in taking responsibility to host and update the web site. NSs actively promote safe blood supply on a national level but regular collaboration with other NS in the region is not a priority. Examples of national level promotion could be seen during the World Blood Donor Day on the 14th of June. Activities focusing on young blood donors raised wide media attention. The Macedonian RC established connections and organized the first meeting on VNBDR

with the Albanian RC. The Croatian RC has been working on integrating HIV/AIDS issues within its other health and care programmes, including VNBDR. It provided information/education seminars for its blood donor recruiters on the issue of HIV/AIDS, which increased knowledge and the RC capacity in this field.

Based on experience to date, the RD has tried to strengthen NS capacity to develop their national blood donation programme in partnership with relevant ministries and blood transfusiology centres. The RD is negotiating for a new training of trainers on VNBDR in the region, created in cooperation between the Federation and WHO.

Constraint

One of the biggest constraints to further develop this programme is the lack of funds for NSs and their respective authorities to conduct joint planning and for organizing ToT.

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.

Actual Result

Although WHO has recommended strengthening community based first aid (CBFA) in the region due to the high number of accidents, CBFA does not feature as a priority for NS. NS have prioritised commercial first aid and standardization of the training curriculum, rather than CBFA. The RD will work further on raising awareness among the NS in this field and providing support in the process of strategic planning and in how to recognize vulnerabilities in the field of FA.

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.)

Actual Result

The Macedonian RC developed and conducted training in psychological support for RC staff in the headquarters and local RC branches, which have been exposed to work in different disaster situations. The Romanian RC has revised a project for MDR tuberculosis patients and psychological support is provided to the patients in the continuation phase of the treatment.

The Hungarian RC and the RD hosted the annual meeting of the European Network for Psychological Support (ENPS) in Budapest in September 2005. Representatives from the NS of Bulgaria, BiH, Serbia and Montenegro, and Croatia participated in the meeting. This was an opportunity for the NSs to exchange experience across regions and best practices. Knowledge gained from the meeting will be a source for future planning within NS.

Overall Constraint and Future

In all countries of the region, NS are in contact with their respective MoH and, when present, also with the coordinating body or agency for the response to HIV/AIDS and TB 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 and change of governments creates difficulties for NS to maintain the connections with local authorities.

Some NSs (e.g. Albanian, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Romanian) have a small number of staff at the headquarters which restricts communication and coordination of activities in the country, including project planning, implementation and evaluation. However, RC youth and volunteers have the enthusiasm and are interested in planning and implementing 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, DM and health departments often work separately without joint planning. This was proved during the recent floods in the region. This integration needs more attention and time in the future.

The funding situation for the regional HC programme is decreasing and it does not allow support to NS on a large scale. In 2006 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. It will be a challenge to these NS – to the Romanian RC in particular - to maintain and further develop their HC programmes.

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 2005, with snowfall and flood emergencies hitting five countries in the region. The RD 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. The RDRT members were deployed on assessment and relief operation missions in all affected countries - either local RDRT members (in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia & Montenegro) or from neighboring countries (to Romania and in Bulgaria).

Table 2: Snowfall and flood emergencies in the region during 2005

Country	Type of Disaster	Response	Time and Targets	RC action
Albania	Heavy snowfalls	DREF – USD 50,000	January-February 500 families for 1 month	Basic food and hygiene distribution
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Heavy snowfalls	DREF - EURO 20,257	January – February 770 families for 1 month	Relief distribution
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Floods	DREF 44,307 CHF	July 1,750 families for 1 month	Basic food and non- food items
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Floods	DREF 25,092 CHF	December 950 families for 1 month	Basic food and non- food items
Bulgaria	Floods	Minor Emergency/DREF CHF 92,666	June 1,250 families for 1 month	Basic non-food items
Bulgaria	Floods	Minor Emergency/DREF CHF 142,309	August 2,400 families for 1 month	Basic food and 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

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.

Actual Results



Flood relief efforts in Romania in summer 2005

The emergencies set out in the table above put existing DP plans of NSs to the test. DP plans in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia have proven their effectiveness in the above operations. The Croatian DP plan has been updated, while Romania and Bulgaria will update their plans in the light of this recent experience. The Red Cross of Montenegro continues to experience difficulties in the absence of clear roles and responsibilities at the republic level.

As a result of the mobilisation efforts of the Albanian Red Cross (ARC) following the tsunami disaster, the Albanian government made available some USD 500,000 for the disaster through the National Society with a portion of the funds set aside for disaster preparedness capacity building of the

ARC. This reflects the increased confidence and significance the disaster response work of the ARC enjoys with the state.

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.

Actual Result

Work on the regional disaster management plan started during the regional DM meeting in April, but has been on hold due to the series of disaster emergencies experienced from spring – winter 2005. Based on inputs from the National Societies and the Federation offices, the plan will be finalized in spring 2006.

It has been clearly proven during the year that the regional disaster mechanisms are in place and are ready for prompt action. In response to the tsunami disaster in South East Asia, eight trained and experienced water and sanitation persons from the Macedonian RC joined the Austrian RC Wat/San Emergency Response Units (ERUs) on missions to Indonesia. Thanks to training on water purification units (Berkefeld Units), organized by the Austrian Red Cross in the past as well as during 2005 (for the Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross Society), the Central Europe region has trained water/sanitation staff (in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia and Bulgaria), on whose expertise the region can count in case of need.

Three RDRT missions were organized to Romania. The teams worked closely with the Romanian RC on assessment, providing technical support and advice, and establishing contacts and coordination with local authorities and relevant organizations. A further RDRT mission was deployed to Romania in early 2006. One RDRT member from Romania, a medical doctor by profession, went on a two-month mission to Pakistan, on 1 December to support the earthquake response operation. A second three-member RDRT mission was deployed for a one-month mission in January 2006.

Expected Result 3: Close cooperation with the regional health and care, communication and organizational development programmes establish a disaster management plan within National Societies.

Actual Result

During the knowledge-sharing meeting, in Budapest, in December 2005, some of the key issues discussed included capacity building in emergency situations and fundraising in disaster situations – for national operations

and for international operations. The participants were mostly from organisational development or communications departments and backgrounds. It is hoped that the discussions will lead to an increased understanding by other departments of the work of the disaster management teams and vice-versa. Organisational development, health and care and communication elements are integrated into the RDRT training held in the region, to encourage cross referencing between programmes.

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

Actual Result



RDRT simulation exercise in Nis, autumn 2005

Some 26 new participants from 10 countries and two regions were trained during the RDRT training in Bulgaria in May 2005. Funds for the event were secured through the Norwegian RC and Swedish RC/SIDA contributions. Five participants were from civil protection agencies around the region. Disaster simulation exercises were swiftly adapted into real life disaster assessment missions, as flooding hit the area of Bulgaria where the course was being held. 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 action, and one they managed well.

A total of 48 participants from 12 countries, of which 38 participants from Central Europe NS and 10 participants from Ankara and South Caucasus Region, participated at the RDRT refresher course in November 2005. The course consisted of two parts: an assessment and plan of action exercise and camp management exercise. Funding was secured through the Finish RC contribution.

Basic equipment, i.e., two laptop computers, camera and mobile phones were purchased for the RDRT to assist them when going on mission.

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.

Actual Result

The DPPI office moved from Brussels to Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina during 2005. 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 RD has actively participated at Stability Pact DPPI meetings held in Sarajevo and Belgrade, together with representatives from the respective NS. Information on the Romania and Bulgaria floods and disaster response activities, as well as information on DM regional training possibilities within the Red Cross has been regularly shared with the Stability Pact DPPI Programme Manager.

The Belgrade meeting discussed proposals from the Governments of Romania and of Serbia and Montenegro to strengthen the role of DPPI, to prepare for and respond to disasters in South Eastern Europe (CEE). The need to

strengthen regional cooperation on disaster preparedness, prevention and response was one of the key messages from the meeting. SEE governments were asked to make optimal use of existing regional emergency mechanisms. In addition, the legal status, structure and political support for the DPPI was discussed, including the sufficiency of the Bucharest Declaration and necessity to develop a new Legal Institutional Framework for DPPI, as well as a need for bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements to facilitate cooperation in the DM area.

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.

Actual Result

The RD continues to develop its regional roster of staff and volunteers with skills and experience, who can be mobilized as regional resources to address National Society needs. This roster also includes persons with VCA training and experience.

The DM department from the Secretariat in Geneva organized a VCA Forum in Sutomore, Serbia and Montenegro, in October 2005. Some 23 participants from eight NS and Federation delegations attended the Forum. Representatives from Turkish Red Crescent, Armenian Red Cross, Minsk and Baku delegations also participated. The aim of the Forum was to revise VCA documents and to discuss the VCA/PCD best practice and case studies. The PCD experience was able to inform the process of VCA revision.

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.

Actual Result

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 RD, as well as ICRC, RDRT members, Stability Pact, UNDP and civil protection representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting focused on sharing 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 RD is encouraging NS to use PCD elements in all programme planning, design and implementation in order to address communities directly and to work together to reduce vulnerability.

The Macedonian Red Cross provided training to six new members of its Mountain Rescue team by using the Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC) Mountain Rescue service training programme and by sending its members to mountain rescue training at the BRC.

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)

Actual Result

Although no proposals have been submitted for EU funding this year, the issue of funding for the accession countries - Bulgaria and Romania – has been raised at appropriate forums including the meeting of national coordinators at the RC/EU Office in Brussels. This issue has particularly impacted on the ability of key donor NS to contribute to the flood relief operations in both countries. EU funding is now available directly to the countries through structural funds managed by the relevant government ministries and bodies. Successful fundraising in this new set up will depend on NS capacity to develop relationships and partnerships with the relevant departments, and the ability to position the NS well. The NSs are being encouraged to talk with the EU delegations in their own countries and to take up the issues with key government partners.

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

Actual Result

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. The importance of integrating psychological support services with ongoing health and care and disaster management activities was again raised during the European Network of Psychological Support (ENPS) conference, which was held in Budapest in September.

Humanitarian Values

This section has been incorporated into section no. 5, as it was for the Appeal 2005.

Organizational Development

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

Organizational and Resource Development

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

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

Actual Result

Long-term capacity building support to the Latvian, Polish and Romanian Red Cross continued to be the main focus of the RD's work in organizational development (OD).

The Romanian RC (RRC) came to the end of a three-year programme funded by the Secretariat's Capacity Building Fund (CBF). Implementation of planned activities was delayed due to serious flooding experienced in the country from spring 2005, however the balance of funding is planned to be used by summer 2006. Although the capacity of the RRC to lead the change process has significantly increased over the past three years, the National Society still faces a number of internal issues, including staff retention and strengthening the relationship between headquarters and branches. Frequent changes in staff at headquarters level has led to difficulties over the past 6 months in maintaining the timeliness and accuracy in narrative and financial reporting, and has therefore also led to some delay in the planning for the next steps. During the first half of 2006 further support will be provided to the Romanian RC to assist in finding mechanisms and approaches to strengthen the headquarters/branches relationship.

Progress in the Latvian RC (LRC) has continued according to the plan of action, led by NS leadership. Communication and dialogue between NS and the RD has remained open and productive. The RD, with the involvement of consultant and expertise from Geneva Secretariat, supported the Latvian RC in the areas of volunteer management, fundraising, leadership training and reporting. LRC showed great interest to start with the participatory community development (PCD) approach in 2006.

The Polish Red Cross (PRC) is continuing to undergo major internal changes, following the change of director general, vice president and other key staff at the headquarters at the end of 2004. Although these developments delayed the implementation of planned activities in 2005, their positive impact can also be seen through the many important steps which have been since undertaken by the PRC. The NS statutes have been revised, introducing 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 PRC. Following implementation of a financial recovery plan, focusing on resolving the critical financial situation of the PRC, the leadership of three regional branches has been suspended. Regular consultations with branches and visits to branches are now in place with the main aim to broaden commitment and ownership throughout the National Society. A financial recovery plan for a number of regional branches and the headquarters is now the focus for the PRC. The structure and set-up of the headquarters has undergone some changes to develop a more departmental approach with clear management lines and job descriptions. At the end of 2005, the Polish Red Cross General Assembly elected a new Board, Council of representatives and President. Early in 2006, a new director general was appointed. It is very important to

continue to work closely with the new leadership of PRC in order to ensure further progress in the ongoing change process.

RD support to the three National Societies has been in the form of regular communication, information sharing, advice and consultation missions. The steering committee meetings regularly held in all three National Societies have been a key vehicle for information exchange and monitoring of the change processes.

Constraint

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. 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.

Lesson learned/Future

There is a need to tailor any support to the very different internal and external contexts for each NS. Discussions on how to approach a new phase of sustainable cooperation with national and international partners continues with the RRC. Maintaining momentum and planning the future direction for development will be the focus in the work with the RRC and PRC in the coming year.

Knowledge Sharing Meeting

Following a knowledge sharing meeting in 2004 for NS involved in planned change processes, the RD organized a similar meeting but with a much wider scope. Some 40 participants from 15 countries gathered in Budapest in early December to share their knowledge, through self-organized working group sessions run by 'lead' NS. The Swedish RC/SIDA funded the meeting. The meeting embraced participants from outside the region, including Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Finland and Iceland. NS showed interest to share and to learn from best practices in a range of organizational, resource and programme development areas. Based on interest and experience, individual National Societies led working group sessions over one and half-day period. The open and participatory nature of the meeting led to honest and transparent discussion about challenges faced and the possible solutions and risks involved. The final half-day was devoted to defining how National Societies could take a focal point role in particular areas of expertise, and how to cover the areas where experience or resources are lacking in the region.

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

Actual Result

National society capacity to address governance and management needs at the branch level continues to increase. Following training sessions of the headquarters' staff in previous years, dissemination and support to NS branches continues.

Table 3: Branch level governance and management activities in 2005

RC NS	Albania	Bulgaria	Macedonia	Latvia
Activities	Statutory meetings prior to 8 th session of GA PPP training for staff and volunteers	Volunteer management development workshop focusing on volunteering policy and implementation plan	Training for branch youth presidents and vice presidents.	Branch level training for governance and management based on the Federation tool – branch level governance

The Latvian RC has adapted the Federation manual on branch level governance to the local context. These changes are now available in English and can be used by other NS. During the Macedonian RC training for branches, the newly developed four-year strategic plan and the roles of different actors were discussed. The Albanian Red Cross branch meetings and training on project planning enabled participants to share best practices from project management and to prepare for NS elections to be held in 2006. The Bulgarian Red Cross looked at

how the national volunteering policy, adopted in 2004, can be implemented at regional and local level and what additional support or guidelines the branches require. 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.

Constraint

The death of the secretary general of the Macedonian Red Cross in June was a distressing time for the National Society. The appointment of a successor has not yet been decided.

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).

Actual Result

The youth network functions at a very basic and unofficial level without any coordination from the Federation side. The capacity of the RD to coordinate this network is limited and the concept of a self-managing network will be reconsidered in the future. 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 NS from the region requested Federation support in encouraging NS leadership to recognize the need for and investment in volunteer management, as well as in providing practical tools for the recruitment and management of volunteers. The Macedonian Red Cross, Youth President - Vesna Petkovska - was elected as a member of the European Coordination Committee, which will manage follow up of the ECM and coordinate initiatives and communication between ECM meetings.

The RD supported two major youth campaigns during the reporting period - Hunger Day in October and World Aids Day anti stigma campaigns in December. The result in terms of cash contributions from the public and in-kind contributions is growing each year. The National Societies are being encouraged to keep some of the money raised to invest in preparations and promotional materials for Hunger Day activities in 2006.

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.

Actual Result

In the aftermath of the tsunami disaster in South East Asia, the NS in the region proved their increased capacity to mobilize funds from public, corporate and state sources. The RC NS of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia and Romania altogether collected more than CHF 3 million in cash and kind, while the National Societies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro also made major resource mobilization efforts. Bulgarian and Romania RC had successful fundraising campaigns for the victims of the floods, which again revealed the potential for local fundraising when the image and public trust in a National Society is intact. 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 was spent. The RD supported these fundraising efforts, by providing guidelines and advice on how to address donors as well as the mechanics of contributing to international appeals.

The RD has continued to provide information about fundraising tools and global partnership opportunities. The Electronic Resource Alliance Newsletter is regularly passed to National Societies. New potential partnership in the area of fundraising training has been identified – primarily Civil Society Development Foundation, based in Budapest.

Funding statistics gathered during the first six months of 2005 point to a continuing reliance on international funding in certain National Societies, whilst others have been able to develop a more diverse funding base.

Table 4 : NS funding structure in 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

Compared to two years ago, when external funding sources (i.e. International donors) for the Albanian RC accounted for over 98per cent of the total income, the NS has seen diversification in funding sources and an increase in local funding. In 2005 for the first time the government has supported the National Society with funding for disaster preparedness activities and some activities in voluntary blood donor recruitment drives. The results of local fundraising campaigns with private sector companies and the public are slowly increasing. The major achievement for the Albanian RC in the second half of 2005 was the launch of the commercial first aid training courses.

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.

Table 5: NS conducting external audit, 2003 – 2005

National Society	External audit 2003	External audit 2004	External audit 2005
Albania	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bulgaria	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bosnia and Herzegovina	No	No	No
Croatia	Yes	Yes	Yes
Latvia	No	No	No
Macedonia	Yes	No	Yes
Poland	Yes	Yes	Yes
Romania	Yes	Yes	Yes
Serbia and Montenegro	Yes	Yes	Yes

In October 2005, the Albanian Red Cross held a fundraising workshop for branch secretaries and volunteer fundraising coordinators, funded by the Norwegian govt/RC grant. Branches were encouraged to explore good models of practice and to further develop the growing trend in local income sources and diversification, based on sound funding plans.

Constraint

The issue of realistic expectations from fundraising departments and personnel 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 a NS 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.

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.

Actual Result

The RD regularly informs NS about new funding opportunities and calls for proposals available under different funding schemes (European Union, Council of Europe, etc.) and offers technical support to develop applications. Many calls are for larger amounts of money (up to 1 million EURO or more), which often questions NS's capacity to manage any successful application. The RD encourages partnerships – a specified requirement in a growing number of EU related calls – in order to develop an application on a more manageable scale. Many Western European National Societies have participated in 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

Branch and Community Development

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 marginalized groups.

Actual Result

In Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro and Macedonia, the third round of PCD implementation was finalised by the end of December 2005. In Romania, the first round of PCD was successfully concluded in 12 communities. In both Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, two branches were selected for PCD implementation. In total, 18 new micro-projects have been implemented and evaluated by the selected local communities during 2005.

Table 6. PCD projects implanted by the regional NSs in 2005

Country	Branches	Projects implemented
Bulgaria	Yambol region: Veselinovo village	RC unit established in Veselinovo Youth club for Bulgarians and Roma, sport field Trainings for youth, FA training, medical equipment for the club
	Varna region, Sindel village	Youth Educational and Sport Club
	Razgrad, Vratza, Burgas	Turk-Roma club for women and children Training and equipping local DR team Long-term planning for social integration of Roma
	Sofia	Establishment of Arab Women NGO "Light for Women" Activities for children from orphanage; assistance to detained migrants; brochure on legal migration; training on legal instruments regarding migration, both national and international
	Burgas, village Sigmen	PCD training with children living in institution and planning their future together with all stakeholders
Macedonia	Valandovo Radovis Kicevo	Health education, English language courses for youth Vocational training, literacy courses Youth Educational Centre: computer courses, Roma language, Home Nursing training
	Demir Hisar	Computer courses for youth Social Club: activities for elderly and other vulnerable groups
Romania	Harghita branch: Fancel, Ulcani, Tamasu, Sancai, Tibod and Dealu.	Health prevention and community-based "First Aid giving families" Women Club, mini-library Prevention of HIV/AIDS and healthy life styles promotion

Serbia and Montenegro	In Serbia: Paracin and Kikinda In Montenegro: Bar	Water-sanitation project (constructing public taps), hygiene education Kindergarten for Roma and other children Fixing premises for workshop for Roma children Activities for children with special needs and their parents
Hungary	Varoslod, Hajmas, Varalja, Jaszbereny, Neszur, Csorotnek, Sarud, Magyarmecske, Pisko, Turkeve-Bala, Szentes	Football field, waste collection/bins, flower planting, leisure park, gym for youth, computer courses and use of Internet, Community Centre with sport facilities, new RC branch established in Neszur Youth Club, establishment of Roma PCD Club, cleaning the environment, "Mentoring Project", sport activities for children, park in the Roma settlement, establishment of community area

In Bulgaria, thanks to the British RC contribution, a micro project focusing on migrants resulted in the establishment of an Arab Women NGO "Light for Women". This gives the Bulgarian RC more access to, and trust of, the Arab migrant community, enabling the NS to develop a more comprehensive policy and strategy regarding migration issues. Another PCD project in the field of prevention of human trafficking targets children living in an institution for delinquency. Authorities, NGOs, institutions from the region, as well as the community from the village of Sigmen are actively participating in this project. They focus on providing a safety and support net to children when they are no longer covered by the protection of the institution. The establishment of a new RC unit, a youth club for Roma and Bulgarian children, a Turk – Roma club are some other success stories emerging from the implementation of the PCD programme of the Bulgarian RC.

In Macedonia, four municipalities implemented PCD based micro projects in 2005, while three new branches were included in the PCD process in September. Local communities supported all micro projects with 30 per cent of the total funding needed for implementation, with major contributions coming from people living in vulnerable Communities. The outcomes of the projects are: better access to health care; language and computer courses for youth; and social activities for the elderly. A Macedonian University professor and members of the PCD team made an evaluation of the programme in the autumn 2005. The findings have shown how PCD enables social and functional inclusion of the community in the protection of marginalized groups.

In Serbia and Montenegro, three new local branches started the PCD process in the autumn. The target groups of the micro projects are the most vulnerable people living in dire conditions, mostly from Roma communities, but also other ethnic groups and people living with disabilities. Very good cooperation was established with the local authorities and their support to the micro-projects in both cash and kind was significant. The impacts of these micro projects are construction of public water pumps, kindergartens for Roma children, and activities for children with special needs and their parents.

In Romania, 14 local communities completed micro projects by the end of 2005. New local Roma communities supported by the local municipalities were included in the PCD process, thanks to good media coverage of the programme. Harghita branch recruited 500 new members and volunteers through implementation of the PCD process, as well as establishing many new contacts with local authorities and potential donors. 13 communities submitted projects to NGOs and local municipalities, following completion of the PCD process. Out of 14, nine villages now have community-based first aid and home care services established. Significant work was done with the illiterate Roma people, using newly designed methods and tools. A final Evaluation Meeting took place in November, gathering representatives of the local communities involved, RC volunteers and representatives of local municipalities. PCD coordinators from RC of S&M and Bulgarian RC participated in the event, sharing experience and lessons learned from their NS.

In Hungary, PCD successfully continues in 12 local communities. In many cases, projects are self-sustainable as communities design and submit their projects to various funding sources. Some of the outcomes are: a new RC branch in Neszur, a football field, a gym for youth, computer courses, a community center with sport facilities and a Roma PCD Club. The Hungarian RC organized two events with all coordinators and stakeholders involved in PCD projects to look at experience and lessons from 2004. Both events produced new ideas and guidelines for the future, which will be shared with other NS.

Impact

National Societies have increased 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 Roma and other vulnerable and marginalized 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. Participation and decision-making during the whole PCD process has an empowering impact on the local vulnerable communities.

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

Actual Result

Experienced PCD practitioners from the region, as well as the PCD package consisting of Tool Kit, Manual, and Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) guidelines are available for interested NSs and Federation offices to help them in applying the PCD methodology. Requests for more information and support in using PCD have been received from Armenia, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Myanmar, and Panama. PCD practitioners from the Macedonian RC and RC of S&M facilitated training for PCD coordinators from the Croatian RC and the RC of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The PCD experience from Europe was presented to NSs of East Africa during a local capacity building forum workshop in March 2005. The impact of working with communities and not for communities was apparent in the results presented from Europe. It is arranged for the PCD coordinator from Bulgarian RC to introduce PCD to Tajikistan RC in early 2006.

The Macedonian Red Cross applies PCD in their health programme, while the RC of Serbia and Montenegro introduced PCD methodology in 96 local RC branches implementing the home care programme. A Large Group Workshop is planned as a pilot in the health and care Programme.

The PCD team has provided significant input to an initiative to develop guidelines for working with Roma programmes. 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.

Please see Expected result 2.

Overall Impact

The PCD programme implemented by the NS on a branch level targeted the most vulnerable populations within the local communities, living in dire social conditions, most of them Roma people. Activities aimed at reducing vulnerability and social exclusion and strengthening the process of their social integration. A main focus was supporting NS, at national, branch and community level, in their efforts to advocate for socially marginalized people and empower them, through the PCD process of learning, assessing needs and discussing priorities, to advocate for themselves.

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. This in turn has a further and more general impact on the general situation of the respective countries.

After several years of PCD programme implementation, NS in the region have gained knowledge and developed skills in effectively working with the vulnerable communities on a branch level including working with the Roma communities. The PCD methodology has been increasingly integrated in the NS core activities such as health and social welfare.

Lessons Learned/Constraint

A major issue that has been greatly affecting the PCD process and its results, has been the time available for the project. Changing the passive attitude of people from marginalized communities and changing negative attitudes towards other ethnic groups is a long-term process that requires a considerable amount of time, effort and care. Stable new Red Cross units in the target communities have proven to be a very effective way to achieve sustainability. Sustainability is more difficult to achieve when the people from the local community do not have full participation during all stages of PCD.

It is possible to work together with multiethnic groups, but more focused work is needed in each group in order to achieve full participation, meaning more time and deeper analysis. The PCD evaluation in Macedonia showed that the transparency of the implemented activities must be increased on local level, because the community is the one that must be involved in the implementation of most if not all activities, which contribute to its development. Besides the promotional activities before the implementation of the micro projects, it is important that media are regularly informed about the progress of the activities in the communities. Better cooperation with the Roma organizations and other NGOs is needed, as well as more focused work with volunteers on a community level.

Future

The PCD programme will continue in six NS in the region and will be introduced to the Albanian and Latvian RC. The PCD team established in the region will be acting as a pool of experts available for other NS who would like to apply the PCD methodology and PCD package. The PCD basic training will be organised for more interested NS over the next year, as well as upgrading training for the PCD practitioners and the VCA/PCD training. The participatory approach in programming and community development concepts will be further elaborated and discussed with NS, in order to upgrade and further develop the work with the vulnerable communities. Networking and partnerships within and outside of the RC will be further promoted on a local and national level, including the Roma Decade initiative.

Population Movement

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.

Five CRC branches in return areas in Croatia were implementing the Community Mobilization programme during 2005: Novska, Dvor, Donji Lapac, Benkovac and Topusko. Since October 2005, new local branches have joined the programme: Slunj, Otocac, Gracac, Ogulin and Korenica. The CRC branches have established various community activities for children, youth or elderly people, as well as having implemented community mobilization projects aimed at assisting returnees in building up their lives back in their places of origin after several years of displacement (such as distribution of livestock, agricultural tools, seeds, cleaning the water-wells, basic relief aid, organizing various social and educational activities, kindergartens, vocational training, volunteers (8-14 per branch) provide assistance and advice to returnees, etc.) Projects were designed and monitored by the local Committees established within the CRC branch, consisting of representatives of the local community, RC volunteers (of a different ethnic background), NGOs and returnees themselves.

Impact

This programme has been very well received by the beneficiaries, due to its emphasized "participatory" and community-based components. Returnees and other vulnerable beneficiaries are encouraged to take the initiative in assessing their needs and searching for possible solutions, also beyond the scope of this programme. Facilitating the contacts and information flow between the beneficiaries and the relevant authorities, IOs and NGOs, CRC has strived to ensure the inclusion of beneficiaries in local development and reintegration projects. Through this programme, local RC branches facilitated communication and rebuilding confidence among different ethnic, religious, age and other groups within their community.

Future

The CRC is continuously negotiating with both the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the local municipalities and local funding sources (if any) in order to be able to sustain its assistance programmes on a local level and some achievements have already been made in some branches such as Knin, Topusko, Novska,

Benkovac, therefore, there was no need for more international support for this particular project and other branches were included in the programme already during 2005.

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.

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

Actual Achievement

Throughout 2005, the Regional Delegation has been using resource persons from the region wherever possible to respond to National Society requests for assistance in a specific field. The Regional Disaster Response Team model has been used for deployments to Romania to assist the Romanian RC in developing its logistical and operational capacity in the emergency flood situation, and in Pakistan to assist with the earthquake operation. All requests for deployment of National Society personnel have been supported, with the sending National Society covering salary costs for the deployed persons for a period of up to two weeks.

Table 7: RDRT deployments in 2005

National Society of Origin	Reason for deployment	Number of Deployments	Number of people deployed
Croatian RC	Romania Flood	2	1
RC of Serbia & Montenegro	Romania Flood Intro of PCD to Croatian RC	4	2
RC of Bosnia & Herzegovina	Romania Flood / Pakistan	2	4
Bulgarian RC	Romania Flood	1	1
Macedonian RC	Romania Flood Intro of PCD to Croatian RC	1 1	2
Romanian RC	Pakistan	1	1

In order to ensure a full range of expertise and profiles are available through the RDRT, training planned for 2006 will focus on attracting people with financial, reporting, administration and communications skills. It is planned that the RDRT model is expanded to cover deployments beyond the disaster response field. In 2006, a participatory community development (PCD) expert from Bulgarian RC will support his colleagues in Tajikistan in introducing PCD.

During the knowledge-sharing meeting held in Budapest in December 2005, a mapping exercise was carried out to identify emerging capacities and resources in areas where National Societies are developing an expertise. Plans were drawn up to identify what resources will be needed when, and by which National Society, and who could potentially fill the resource gap – from the region or beyond. External resource persons and consultants, who have been supporting specific programmes in the region, participated at the meeting – as part of the wider regional resource pool. In addition to responding to NS requests, the regional delegation has also continued its human resource strategy to recruit for regional coordinator positions from the National Societies in the region. In April 2005, a new regional health and care coordinator from the Macedonian RC replaced the outgoing delegate. 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.

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.

Actual Achievement



Front Cover of the latest *Bridge*, spring 2006

With two editions of *The Bridge* magazine in 2005, it has become *the* voice of the region in advocating on specific vulnerability issues. The first issue focused on human trafficking, whilst the second issue focused on health related topics – including TB. *The Bridge* now embraces the wider Europe region, with contributions from, and distribution to, both east and west Europe. Both issues were translated into Russian. At present the magazine is a tool to present the activities of the RC in Europe to external partners. Its use as a tool in advocacy will be further developed in 2006. In 2005, funding for *The Bridge* proved difficult to secure, and work began on each issue without having full funding. A more regular and reliable funding source is sought for 2006.

Human trafficking has been identified by both National Societies and the Federation as a key vulnerability issue in the region. In the Red Cross response to human trafficking, the RC of Serbia & Montenegro and Croatian Red Cross are the most experienced NS in the region. The Regional Delegation's role continues to be to draw attention to the issue, particularly with those National Societies not yet involved in work in this field, to look at the possibilities and needs. However the RD recognizes the expertise in the National Societies currently working with the victims of human trafficking, and looks to them for the lead in this field. The RD has been represented at two international conferences in 2005 on human trafficking: in Croatia in October, and in Belgrade in November. Both opportunities have been used to network with other organizations involved in this field, as well as to talk with key donors supporting field activities (International Organization for Migration – IOM, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MARRI Centre (Migration, Asylum, and Refugees Regional Initiative).)

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 Aids Day on 1 December. Please see the Health and care section.

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.

Actual Achievement

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), WHO and national blood transfusiology centres. With the signing of a cooperation agreement between International Federation and WHO, the focus will be on looking at how this operational alliance can provide concrete input to the work of the National Societies in capacity building in the health and care field. There are plans to work closely with WHO on training and capacity building in the field of ensuring safe blood supplies, if funding is made available early in 2006.

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.

In the OD field, discussions have also begun with Acevo- 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. It is hoped that 2006 will see the Regional Delegation working closely with Acevo to provide opportunities for skills development for leadership in the region.



Knowledge sharing meeting held in Budapest, December 2005

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

Actual Achievement

The knowledge-sharing meeting held in Budapest in December 2005 was a further element in developing the partnership networks to strengthen capacity. The mapping of current and emerging resources was an important exercise carried out in a participatory way during the meeting. National Society participants were able to look at their planned needs over a range of areas, and where this resource or expertise can currently be accessed. It is hoped that the contacts made during the workshop, between National Societies within the region, and also with those from neighboring regions will be followed up on by NS in 2006.

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 2005 RC partnership and exchange in the region has included:

Table 8: RC partnership and exchange in the region during 2005

Technical Area	National Societies and Local RC involved	Comment
Disaster Management	Bulgaria/Romania/Croatia/Macedonia/Serbia & Montenegro/Bosnia & Herzegovina	RDRT deployed for assessment
Health and care	Macedonia, Serbia, Albania	Planned visit to Russian RC on TB programming early 2006
Participatory Methodologies	Bosnia & Herzegovina / Croatia / Serbia & Montenegro / Macedonia	Introduction of PCD in BiHRC and Croatian RC
	Tajikistan/Bulgaria/Finland	For introduction of PCD in Tajikistan.

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 second half of 2005.

International Representation

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

The financial report is attached below. Please click here to return to the title page and contact information

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/1-2005/9998
Appeal	M05AA066
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	412'351	428'815	0	1'094'755	63'436	1'999'357
B. Opening Balance	71'413	36'429	27'579	363'675	23'533	522'629
Income						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross	16'865					16'865
British Red Cross				45'190		45'190
Capacity Building Fund				175'548		175'548
Finnish Red Cross	2'821	77'200			35'334	115'355
Norwegian Red Cross	148'852	158'171		587'952		894'975
Swedish Red Cross	15'120	189'680		137'800	33'530	376'130
C1. Cash contributions	183'658	425'051		946'490	68'864	1'624'063
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
Finnish Red Cross					9'774	9'774
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)					9'774	9'774
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
British Red Cross			-6'308		6'308	0
Swedish Red Cross					-10'000	-10'000
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)			-6'308		-3'692	-10'000
Inkind Personnel						
Finnish Red Cross	43'400				29'140	72'540
C5. Inkind Personnel	43'400				29'140	72'540
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	227'058	425'051	-6'308	946'490	104'086	1'696'377
D. Total Funding = B + C	298'471	461'480	21'271	1'310'164	127'619	2'219'006

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	71'413	36'429	27'579	363'675	23'533	522'629
C. Income	227'058	425'051	-6'308	946'490	104'086	1'696'377
E. Expenditure	-276'049	-303'661	-21'271	-779'305	-101'574	-1'481'861
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	22'422	157'819	0	530'859	26'044	737'145

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/1-2005/9998
Appeal	M05AA066
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)		412'351	428'815	0	1'094'755	63'436	1'999'357	
Supplies								
Shelter					14		14	-14
Construction	2'646		526		15'012		15'538	-12'892
Clothing & textiles			652		2'274		2'926	-2'926
Food	4'600		17'416		3'071		20'487	-15'887
Seeds,Plants			1'743		128		1'871	-1'871
Water & Sanitation	580		2'984		552		3'536	-2'956
Medical & First Aid	500		491		3'456		3'948	-3'448
Teaching Materials	5'953		7'270		34'965		42'236	-36'283
Other Supplies & Services	384'922				7'319		7'319	377'603
Total Supplies	399'201		31'082		66'792		97'874	301'327
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	15'599							15'599
Vehicles	6'560		6'557				6'557	3
Computers & Telecom	22'297		3'912		74'052		77'965	-55'668
Office/Household Furniture & Ec					7'742		7'742	-7'742
Others Machinery & Equipment	2'279				3'588		3'588	-1'309
Total Land, vehicles & equipme	46'735		10'470		85'382		95'852	-49'116
Transport & Storage								
Storage					302		302	-302
Transport & Vehicle Costs	32'967	1'856	18'539		13'175	294	33'865	-897
Total Transport & Storage	32'967	1'856	18'539		13'477	294	34'166	-1'199
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	43'400		175			25	200	43'200
Delegate Benefits	49'000	58'088	2'185		2'606	45'715	108'594	-59'594
Regionally Deployed Staff	200'880		109		89		198	200'682
National Staff	208'047	52'895	112'975		110'607	4'725	281'202	-73'155
National Society Staff			36'410		158'612		195'022	-195'022
Consultants	9'922			2'945	2'062	606	5'613	4'309
Total Personnel Expenditures	511'249	110'983	151'853		2'945	273'976	590'830	-79'580
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	502'550	40'522	94'052		142'588	37'396	314'558	187'992
Total Workshops & Training	502'550	40'522	94'052		142'588	37'396	314'558	187'992
General Expenditure								
Travel	97'124	20'324	30'406		52'469	4'454	107'653	-10'529
Information & Public Relation	144'598	12'418	3'381	14'521	46'535	404	77'259	67'338
Office Costs	46'246	2'359	13'011	22	36'568	1'847	53'807	-7'561
Communications	63'939	3'759	33'127	2'271	25'858	2'134	67'150	-3'211
Professional Fees	3'000		166		20'777	1'297	22'239	-19'239
Financial Charges	21'639	3'207	-4'641	130	5'770	-4'397	69	21'570
Other General Expenses	150	79	1'082		199	884	2'244	-2'094
Total General Expenditure	376'696	42'146	76'533	16'943	188'177	6'623	330'422	46'274
Program Support								
Program Support	129'958	17'760	19'738	1'383	50'655	6'479	96'014	33'944
Total Program Support	129'958	17'760	19'738	1'383	50'655	6'479	96'014	33'944
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		62'782	-98'607		-41'741	-290	-77'856	77'856
Total Operational Provisions		62'782	-98'607		-41'741	-290	-77'856	77'856
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1'999'357	276'049	303'661	21'271	779'305	101'574	1'481'861	517'497
VARIANCE (C - D)		136'301	125'154	-21'271	315'450	-38'138	517'497	