

# 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

## VOICING HIDDEN VULNERABILITIES IN EUROPE A COLLECTIVE APPROACH

3 May 2006

### In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA076; Annual Report; Period covered: January - December 2005

Appeal target: CHF 252,582 (USD 194,820 or EUR 160,750); Appeal coverage: 82.3 % (*Please click here to go directly to the attached Financial Report*).

#### Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities in Europe Annual Appeal 2005. For details please see the website at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA076.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA076.pdf)

Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities in Europe Annual Appeal 2005 – Programme Update no.1. For details please see the website at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07601.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07601.pdf)

Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities in Europe Annual Appeal 2005 – Programme Update no.2. For details please see the website at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07602.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA07602.pdf)

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

Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities in Europe Annual Appeal 2006-2007. For details please see the website at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA66002.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA66002.pdf)

#### Programme summary:

The Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities appeal sought to better align the voice, presence and action of the International Federation. Originally, the appeal was launched with a budget of CHF 447,443, but in the course of the year this was revised to CHF 252,582.

*The Bridge* magazine has been published twice in the course of the year to stimulate discussions and exchange experiences among National Societies in Europe & Central Asia. It also endeavours to position the International Federation within these debates. Vigorous preparations were made for the VIIth European Regional Conference due to be held in 2006. It was hoped to follow on from the achievements of the 2002 conference in the areas of migration and health. However, the conference will be postponed to 2007 following challenges faced throughout the preparatory period, which caused delays in administrative and technical arrangements. The process to identify a new location and a new host National Society for the conference has started.

#### For further information please contact:

- Anja Toivola, acting Head, Europe Department, Geneva, email: [anja.toivola@ifrc.org](mailto:anja.toivola@ifrc.org), phone: +41 22 730 4431, fax: +41 22 733 0395

- *Michaela Told, Senior Officer Policy & Advocacy, Europe Department, Geneva, email: [michaela.told@ifrc.org](mailto:michaela.told@ifrc.org), phone +41 22 730 4424, fax: +41 22 733 0395*

*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 more information please access the Federation website at: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

## Overall analysis of the programme

The appeal 'Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities: A collective approach' has been launched for the first time in 2005. The appeal attempted to respond to the diversity and heterogeneity of Europe and Central Asia, a region stretching from Iceland to Tajikistan and currently covering 52 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies<sup>1</sup>. The region is embedded in a rapidly changing political environment both in east and west.

The specific regional needs in regards to health and care, disaster management and organisational development have been addressed through the Europe appeals for Central Europe, Turkey & Caucuses, Russian Federation, Belarus/Moldova/Ukraine, and Central Asia <[Please click here to go directly to the appeals 2005](#)>. The Federation has been traditionally supporting the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in these countries in order to strengthen their capacities and to assist the vulnerable populations. Throughout the year, this support from the Federation and assistance changed lives in the communities and helped alleviate the suffering of the poor and marginalised <[Please click here to go directly to the annual reports on the appeals 2005](#)>.

Assistance to the poor and vulnerable populations can be achieved through different avenues. All statutory conferences in past years, as well as the major RC/RC movement documents recognise the need to break the silence and give a voice to those in the shadows and the margins. The Federation has made progress in this regard through its global programme. However, the potential to reach out to governments, regional and national organisations, as well as international European bodies has not yet been fully fulfilled. The RC/EU office in Brussels, with its mandate to position the Federation and its EU member National Societies towards the EU institutions, was a valuable resource in this regard and continues to be so.

This appeal sought to better align the voice, presence and action of the International Federation, especially in regards to non-discrimination towards migrant and ethnic communities, including Roma & Sinti, as well as in HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Indeed, the unique combination of active National Societies and the Federation's presence at the country, regional and international level allowed the Federation to play a significant role in helping protect human dignity and confronting new vulnerabilities in communities of Europe and Central Asia.

The contents and rationale of the appeal remained the same throughout the year, even though the tsunami of 26 December 2004 impacted on the implementation of the appeal. Human resources were dedicated to the tsunami operation for a period of six months and thus some of the activities had to be amended accordingly. This resulted also in the budget revision as outlined below.

The appeal was originally launched with a budget of CHF 447,443. However, in the course of the year this appeal was revised to CHF 252,582 <[Please click here to see Programme Update 1](#)>. The coverage of the appeal at the end of the year was 82.3 per cent with contributions from Austrian RC, British RC, Finnish RC, Hungarian RC, Italian RC, Norwegian RC, Swedish RC and Swiss RC. In addition, some costs related to this appeal were also covered by the Regional Delegation in Budapest and the Europe Department's core allocation which do not appear in the appeal coverage rate. Overall, the response to the appeal has been positive, but also targeted. The main part of the budget was contributed by the Austrian RC through an in-kind Staff-on-Loan position filled at the Europe Department in Geneva. Fundraising efforts throughout the year focused on financing *the Bridge* magazine and receiving funds to support the preparatory process of the European Regional Conference.

The uniqueness of the appeal is partly based on its approach to providing general strategic and policy support to all National Societies in Europe and Central Asia, bridging the gap between national and international operations

---

<sup>1</sup> Including one National Society pending recognition.

within National Societies and the International Federation. The entry points for the activities implemented in this appeal were less the operations per se, but the various themes or topics of common interest for the whole region. Indeed, the appeal also evolved during the reporting period of 12 months and became a tool to describe activities of the Europe Department which benefited all Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Europe and Central Asia. In this regard, some of the originally planned objectives were amended or in its actual implementation received a different ‘face’. Some of these developments are analysed and explained below.

## Objectives, Achievements, and Constraints

**Goal:** Facilitate and promote European Red Cross and Red Crescent activities to alleviate human suffering through strengthened coordination, cooperation, and equal partnerships, as well as improved advocacy and communications.

## Advocacy, Representation, and Communications

**Objective:** Increased influence on humanitarian policy and decision makers at the international, regional and national level through a coherent and strategic approach in advocacy and communications.

### Expected results

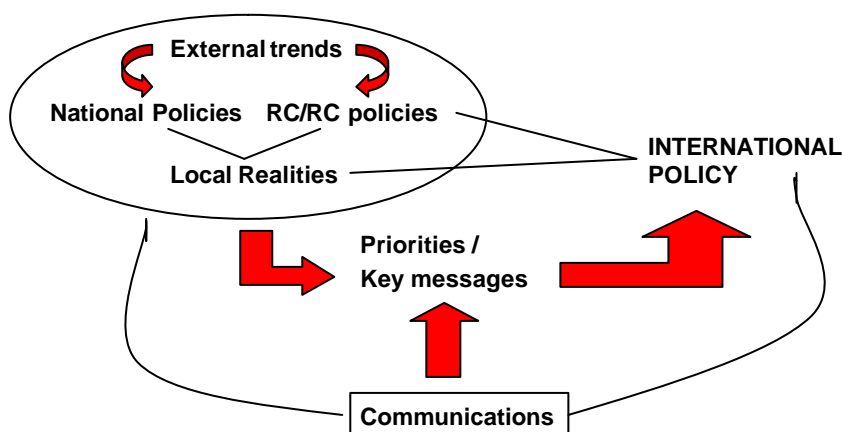
- Developed a coherent advocacy and communications strategy for the Europe and Central Asian region.
- Improved advocacy support to National Societies in their national advocacy objectives and more effective advocacy and representation activities by Federation and national staff at international, regional and national events
- Produced publications (Bridge, thematic brochures) to support the advocacy efforts of the European National Societies, including the updating of the public website and FedNet for Europe and Central Asia.
- Russian translations of key documents.

### Progress/Achievements & Constraints

Advocacy, representation, and communications are important elements in influencing humanitarian policy and decision-makers. However, success in this area can only be achieved once clear positions and opinions are formulated which provide the basis for further advocacy & representation work. Both these elements of external relations will be complemented and supported by effective communications as a tool to transport the message to policy makers. The links between these three key areas (positioning, advocacy & representation, communication) are schematically shown in the graphic below.



## Positioning – Advocacy - Communications



Priorities in Europe and Central Asia are clearly the issues around the growing rates of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis and the vulnerability of migrant and other ethnic communities, both closely linked to humanitarian values. In order to stimulate discussions, to exchange experiences among National Societies in Europe & Central Asia, and to position the International Federation, *the Bridge* magazine has been published two times in the course of the year. The new conceptual focus of the Bridge is to emphasis one particular theme per issue and to provide a pan-European perspective on it. In addition, efforts have been undertaken to publish *the Bridge* both in English and Russian in order to serve the wider region of Europe and Central Asia. The spring 2005 issue focused on human trafficking and the autumn 2005 edition on health & care with special emphasis of HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and social welfare. The major constraint of *the Bridge* is the limited resources with which it is produced. Even though production has moved in the course of the year fully to Budapest, there is chronic underfunding of *the Bridge*. The value of *the Bridge* has been recognised by National Societies and other actors across Europe but this wide-spread interest has not actually been reflected in the pledges received. Yet, major efforts are being undertaken to continue with the bi-annual publication of *the Bridge*.



## Europe's boat migrants:

The latest edition of *the Bridge* magazine, Spring 2006

As part of the overall Federation's communications strategy, **FedNet** has been promoted as a useful tool to share information. The Europe & Central Asian pages of FedNet have been newly conceptualised and updated. The contents of the pages is geared towards the needs and interest of National Societies and attempts to follow a simple, easily accessible structure. The FedNet pages are linking into the public Federation website as well as other sites, in order to avoid duplication, and to ensure quick access to information from one central location. The FedNet pages now also reflect the importance of Russian language for the region and a 'Russian language corner' has been created. All available documents in

Russian have been uploaded to the site and will be maintained regularly. The re-structuring and re-conceptualisation of the European and Central Asian FedNet pages are just one first important step, however more work needs to be done on the pages. National Societies and delegations shall be encouraged and enabled to upload relevant information they wish to share with all RC/RC actors themselves. The major limitation in this work, however, is the need for human resources to be able to upload and maintain the pages on the one hand and to ensure coherence and a global overview of the information posted on the other hand. Work on the FedNet pages will also be continued in 2006.

Communications efforts complement the International Federation's efforts to support National Societies in their **advocacy** work. Individualised support has been provided to National Societies and delegations upon their request in regards to different issues, be it on themes (e.g. anti-discrimination work, migration, humanitarian values) or on more general topics (e.g. on implementing advocacy in general, measuring impact, integrating P & V into programming). In addition, the EU Office and networks have been supported in formulating positions on ongoing discussions (e.g. demographic change in Europe, return of irregular migrants and rejected asylum seekers, non-discrimination and civil protection). Originally, it was anticipated that through this appeal National Societies would also be enabled to participate in meetings and major events where the presence of the Federation would make a difference. Due to the absolute lack of funding in this regard, this component of work could not be facilitated as originally planned. Nevertheless, financially strong National Societies were encouraged to participate in particular events on behalf of the International Federation (e.g. Danish Red Cross on human trafficking at OSCE, German Red Cross/Swiss Red Cross on migration at Global Commission on International Migration-GCIM-consultation). The aim would be still to allow a diverse range of other National Societies to participate in important events to position the RC/RC Movement. Close cooperation with other departments, such as principles & values, health & care, international representation, have been maintained and expanded. Occasionally, direct advocacy efforts were also undertaken by the Europe Department (e.g. WHO, Council of

Europe). It is anticipated that these advocacy efforts will be continued in 2006, partly through the publication of supportive material for advocacy ('advocacy toolkit') that helps National Societies and delegations to position themselves around issues of concern.

## Cooperation and Coordination

**Objective:** Establish a shared commitment to a Europe-wide cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) for institutional strengthening, capacity building and disaster response mechanisms in Europe and Central Asia.

### Expected results

- Agreed cooperation agreement strategy for the institutional strengthening, capacity building and disaster response mechanisms in Europe.
- Built strategic alliances with external organisations relevant to the RC/RC agenda, as well as equal partnerships among Red Cross / Red Crescent Societies in the Europe region.

### Progress/Achievements & Constraints

The objective to strengthen cooperation and coordination in Europe and Central Asia complements the earlier outlined objective on advocacy and communications. Both elements are intrinsically linked together. Even though a cooperation agreement strategy *per se* has not been formally established, different activities have been implemented in this area which contributed to achieving the objective.

**Networks and reference centres** are an important facet of cooperation and coordination among National Societies in Europe and Central Asia. Currently, 11 networks exist in Europe with an outreach across the region. In addition, three reference centres with global outreach are based in Western Europe. The Federation intensified its support to the networks and recognised their importance as a pool of experts. Indeed, this has also been confirmed by the Framework for Action, of the Federation of the Future, where regional networks and structures are considered one area needing further improvement. The European networks have strong ownership and want to contribute as advisers to the policy-making of the Federation as a whole. The Europe Department was acknowledging and supporting this desire throughout the year and will continue to find ways to inject the value of networks to the policy framework of the Federation. More information on networks and reference centres can be found on European and Central Asian pages of FedNet.

As part of the discussions on better cooperation in disaster management, issues around **civil protection** in the European Union were high on the agenda of the Europe Department. The work on civil protection is lead by the RC/EU Office and the Federation's legal department, however, the Europe Department supports the work in this area < [Please click here to see Programme Update 1 and 2](#) >. Disaster response within the EU and the cooperation around it remains a major challenge for the future.

The agreed cooperation between the International Federation and the World Health Organisation (WHO), signed in May 2005, was a major achievement at the global level. This strategic partnership between the two institutions has a specific impact at European level and triggered further discussions with the global partnership "Stop TB", hosted by WHO, the Health & Care Department and the Europe Department. The Europe Department, together with the Health & Care Department, agreed to establish a '**European Stop TB Partnership**', hosted by the International Federation. Negotiations on the modalities of this partnership were started in 2005 and will be continued in 2006. The need to fully fund this hosted project off-structure was and remains a major constraint. However, there is a clear recognition that the Federation has an important role to play and has to be engaged in this partnership, especially around issues of social mobilisation.

Finally, the preparations for the **VIIth European Regional Conference** of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – led by different National Societies from the region but supported by the Secretariat – have been another important feature of the coordination work across Europe and Central Asia and continued throughout 2005. The overall purpose of a Red Cross/Red Crescent Regional Conference as a statutory meeting is to consider 'questions which are of common and special interest to the participating societies.'<sup>2</sup> It also aims to create a continuum from one conference to another. The VIth European Regional Conference, held in April 2002 in Berlin, adopted a 'Berlin Charter', an 'Action Plan on Health' and an 'Action Plan on Migration'. European

---

<sup>2</sup> Constitution of the Federation, Article 30 (1).

National Societies committed themselves to a wide range of activities addressing the most urgent needs in health and migration. A questionnaire on the follow-up to the Berlin Conference has been created and shared with all National Societies in order to monitor progress. The work done since Berlin should be further deepened and therefore, the forthcoming Regional Conference will focus on the same themes – health and migration.

A Steering Committee was established in early 2005 with the task of following-up on the Berlin Conference and preparing the upcoming European Regional Conference. For this purpose, the original Berlin Conference Support Group was enlarged with technical expertise and representatives from different networks and the Steering Committee has now the following membership: French RC, German RC, Slovakian RC (as Youth representative), Swiss RC, and the host National Society. In addition, the co-chairs of the thematic working groups are taking part in the deliberations of the Steering Committee, i.e. the Tajikistan RC, Kyrgyzstan RC, representatives of the ERNA and PERCO networks. Representatives of the Standing Commission and the ICRC participate as observers in the overall preparatory process.

The substantial preparations were carried forward by the working group on health and the working group on migration. Both working groups have expanded their membership to represent the different geographical areas in Europe and Central Asia. Cross-cutting issues to be addressed in both working groups are advocacy, demographic change, and humanitarian values, including diversity and non-discrimination. The Working Group on Health, chaired by the French RC and co-chaired by ERNA and the Tajikistan RC, focused its preparations on three major issues: HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and community health & care which also includes issues around social welfare and elderly. The Working Group on Migration, chaired by the Swiss Red Cross and co-chaired by PERCO and the Kyrgyzstan RC, decided to structure its deliberations around questions of protection & rights, assistance and durable solutions – addressing these three areas through the perspective of different affected groups, i.e. asylum seekers/refugees, internally displaced persons, irregular migrants, economic migrants and trafficked persons. The work of both groups will continue in 2006 and is supported by staff from the Secretariat. The aim of the working groups is to provide clear guidance to participants for further actions in their own national context, to create a platform to strengthen NS activities, programmes and regional networks, as well as to formulate and agree on new approaches for their future work.

After the 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held in November 2005 in Seoul, the Steering Committee has agreed that the Federation of the Future with its Global Agenda will be fully integrated in the themes of the conference. Additionally, it was decided that a meeting for the chairpersons of the European networks and reference centres and a satellite meeting on disaster management, including civil protection, will be organised during the Conference.

In administrative and organisational terms, a Solidarity Fund was established by the Federation for the Conference, in order to facilitate the participation of 18 National Societies from Europe and Central Asia. Some financial contributions were already received towards the end of the year. In addition, the position of a Moscow Conference Officer, as Staff-on-Loan, was established and funding was received for a period of six months by the Finnish and Swedish Red Cross Societies.

The overall funding of the Conference was a challenge throughout the year. Different funding options were considered. Among others, the RC/EU-Office in Brussels approached the European Commission for funding opportunities and the Russian delegation of the Federation approached possible donors in-country. However, no financial assistance could be secured. The host society, the Russian Red Cross, also faced internal challenges throughout the preparatory period of 2005 which caused delays in administrative and technical arrangements.

Given these difficulties, the Steering Committee in its meeting in December 2005 expressed strong concerns in regards to the organisational preparations and the uncertainty of the funding situation. During that meeting it was then decided that a final confirmation whether the conference will take place or not will only be decided after a thorough review of the situation. Towards the end of the year it looked probable that the Conference was going to be postponed due to the various constraints mentioned above. Indeed, on 15 February 2006 the Conference Planning Committee proposed, and the Governing Board decided, to postpone the VIIth European Regional Conference to 2007 and initiate a process to identify a new location and a new host National Society for it. The substantial preparations however were to continue as planned. More information on the European Regional Conference can also be downloaded from FedNet.

### **Conclusions**

The ‘Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities Appeal – A collective approach’ was able to become more integrated and aligned with both National Societies and Federation programming. Even though it was originally a risk to launch this appeal and major constraints were faced in regards to funding the appeal, the issues addressed through this appeal have been widely recognised. Advocacy and representation as well as cooperation and coordination are more than ever important facets of the work of the Federation’s Europe Department. This recognition also led to the launch of a continuing appeal 2006- 2007, also entitled ‘Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities’. Indeed, it is the role of the International Federation to address vulnerabilities in all its aspects and through all kind of avenues.

***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	M05AA076
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					252'582	252'582
B. Opening Balance					45'559	45'559
Income						
Cash contributions						
British Red Cross					5'325	5'325
Hungarian Red Cross					623	623
Italian Red Cross					12'144	12'144
Norwegian Red Cross					10'000	10'000
Swedish Red Cross					28'000	28'000
Swiss Red Cross					6'000	6'000
C1. Cash contributions					62'092	62'092
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
Finnish Red Cross					28'173	28'173
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)					28'173	28'173
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
Finnish Red Cross					0	0
Italian Red Cross					0	0
On Line donations					45'000	45'000
Swedish Red Cross					10'000	10'000
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)					55'000	55'000
Inkind Personnel						
Austrian Red Cross					17'050	17'050
C5. Inkind Personnel					17'050	17'050
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)					162'314	162'314
D. Total Funding = B + C					207'874	207'874

## II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance					45'559	45'559
C. Income					162'314	162'314
E. Expenditure					-78'815	-78'815
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)					129'058	129'058

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/1-2005/9998
Appeal	M05AA076
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure**

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance A - B
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>						252'582	252'582	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Transport & Vehicle Costs						25	25	-25
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>						25	25	-25
<b>Personnel Expenditures</b>								
Delegates Payroll	73'070					26'373	26'373	46'697
Delegate Benefits	40'675					13'935	13'935	26'740
Consultants	4'979					21'989	21'989	-17'010
<b>Total Personnel Expenditures</b>	118'724					62'298	62'298	56'426
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	10'000							10'000
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	10'000							10'000
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	10'000					2'807	2'807	7'193
Information & Public Relation	90'000					4'135	4'135	85'865
Office Costs	5'760					2'064	2'064	3'696
Communications	1'680					2'334	2'334	-654
Financial Charges						101	101	-101
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	107'440					11'441	11'441	95'999
<b>Program Support</b>								
Program Support	16'418					5'051	5'051	11'367
<b>Total Program Support</b>	16'418					5'051	5'051	11'367
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	252'582					78'815	78'815	173'767
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>						173'767	173'767	