

Appeal 2006-2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

VOICING HIDDEN VULNERABILITIES IN EUROPE

Appeal no. MAA66002

Appeal total: CHF 690,587 [<budget summary click here>](#)

For more on Europe & Central Asia [<click here>](#)

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.
For more information: <http://www.ifrc.org>

Secretariat Programmes	2006 budget (CHF)	2007 budget (CHF)	2006-2007 Total (CHF)
Policy, Advocacy & Communication	306,181	306,181	612,362
Preparations/implementation Moscow conference	78,225	-	78,225
Total	384,406	306,181	690,587

Context of Europe and Central Asia¹

Europe and Central Asia is a region stretching from Iceland to Tajikistan, currently covering 52 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies². The region is characterised by diversity and heterogeneity in its demographic, economic, social and political structures. Europe and Central Asia is home to roughly 860 million people, with great variations of populations in individual countries. Iceland with 300,000 inhabitants has 0.25 per cent of the population of the Russian Federation (144 million), the largest country in the Europe region. In Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic more than two-third of the population live in rural areas, in contrast to Belgium and Belarus where a majority reside in towns and cities. This population distribution influences needs in the region and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' response to it.

At the same time, high poverty levels demand a more intense intervention. The Europe region faces huge disparities. Parts of the West has GDP per capita levels of more than CHF 50,000 (ie Luxembourg and Norway) while in the East, GDP per capita is below CHF 400 CHF, as in Tajikistan or Uzbekistan. Income distribution also

¹ Source of statistics unless specified otherwise: UNDP, Human Development Report 2005, UNDP, New York, 2005.

² Including one national society in formation.

varies within countries: Kyrgyzstan and Hungary (Gini Index³ 35 and 27 respectively) have a relatively more even distribution than Turkmenistan and Turkey, for example (both Gini Index 40). Similarly, the economic activity rate of women is much higher in Albania, Georgia and Ukraine than in Ireland, Spain or Austria.

This diverse region is also in a rapidly changing political environment. The European Union (EU) has enlarged its boundaries, creating new opportunities for the new member countries, leaving those outside the EU borders and their vulnerable communities in the shadows. The transition of centrally planned economies towards the market economy and the effects of social welfare and health reforms are reflected in decreasing expenditures in social services across the region. Communities at the margin – economic poor, elderly, disabled, HIV/AIDS affected, refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and ethnic minorities – are paying the highest price for these changes, both in the East and West. Post 9/11 new political discourses have emerged across Europe, resulting in tightened security controls and visa regimes, as well as in an increase in racism, discrimination and xenophobia, often coupled with violence. The need to promote humanitarian values, reduce discrimination and restore respect and dignity for each person in Europe/Central Asia is more pressing than ever.

Non-discrimination is of particular concern to migrant and ethnic communities: the new EU borders have triggered new challenges in refugee protection and migration management both within and outside the EU. Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants face several major problems including access to health care services, to accommodation, a fair asylum procedure or humane migration policies, coupled with a lack of protection against discrimination, exploitation and abuse, including smuggling and trafficking. The result is that many migrants find themselves in an irregular situation and therefore with no legal status and little or no recourse to basic rights. At the same time, many of the Western European countries are relying heavily on the positive contributions migrants make to their economies. Furthermore, financial remittances from migrants back to their countries of origin exceed the contributions of the official development aid worldwide.



At the fore: Visiting nurses from the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan are leading community efforts to combat TB in Central Asia.

While the vulnerability of migrants is a humanitarian concern across the region, the rapidly growing rates of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis are especially alarming in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Approximately 1.5 million persons are living with the virus in the region, which is now spreading beyond the traditional high risk groups. Mother-to-child transmission as well as young people, among them injecting drug users, are the new venues of infection. Harm reduction measures will be the cornerstone of a comprehensive response targeting young people, even though access to treatment and the growing need for home care can no longer be overlooked. Similarly, the tuberculosis situation is critical in 16 of the 52 countries in Europe and Central Asia with a high resurgence and dramatically increased notification rates. Despite the implementation of the DOTS⁴ programme in many of the high-burden countries⁵, tuberculosis remains the leading

infectious killer in the Europe region. Multi-drug resistance tuberculosis coupled with the rise of HIV/AIDS infections creates an increased pressure to act.

³ The Gini index measures inequality over the entire distribution of income or consumption. A value of 0 represents perfect equality, a value of 100 a perfect inequality.

⁴ DOTS = directly observed treatment short-course

⁵ Russian Federation, Ukraine, Romania, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

In such a diverse region as Europe, with its unique combination of active national societies and combined global presence on the regional and international level, the Federation is well placed to play a significant role to help to protect human dignity and confront new vulnerabilities in their communities.

An important element of the wide ranging support the Federation Secretariat offers to its 'Europe/Central Asia Federation' of national societies is guiding advocacy, communications and representation efforts. In addition, the secretariat facilitates coordination and cooperation to enable Red Cross Red Crescent action on the ground to have an increased positive impact on beneficiaries.

This appeal is a continuation of the Voicing Appeal 2005 and seeks to better align such efforts through a powerful Federation voice, presence and action in influential national, regional and international forums that could lead to a positive difference being made to people's lives.

[<Click here to view Europe/Central Asia page appeals for 2006>](#)

The Europe Department in the Federation takes the responsibility to support national societies across the region in addressing these challenges and to respond adequately to the emerging trends in this huge and diverse region full of contradictions:

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Context



First hand experience: Two Icelandic Red Cross volunteers and a British Red Cross fundraiser (left) at a national society second hand clothes store.

The Federation recognises its objective 'to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by national societies, with a view of preventing and alleviating human suffering and thereby contributing to the maintenance and the promotion of peace in the world'⁶. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are thus the essential actors to address these challenges in their national contexts. The Federation also remains a support structure towards the development of the national societies as outlined in 'Strengthening National Societies and delivering a more effective service'⁷. The call for more flexibility, better communication and cooperation, for effective representation and advocacy, for facilitation instead of implementation, for quality service delivery within appropriate structures, and the desire for closer proximity to national societies led the Europe Department within the Federation to launch the Voicing Appeal 2005 and continue

with this working approach in 2006. In 2002, the 'Europe Implementation Plan' was formulated, which recognised this need for change and outlines a vision for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Europe to meet the challenges ahead. Now, the focus – and perception – of national societies as 'aid receivers' is shifting to one of equal partners pursuing a common way forward. New partnerships and working approaches have evolved across the region.

The organisational challenges of recent years still remain. The 'Federation of the Future' process dominates these discussions. The General Assembly in 2005 has accepted the need for a specification of the Federation's priorities in service delivery to national societies. Europe Department discussions in 2006 will focus on a new structure, which is expected to be finalised by the end of the year. Priorities will still be on strengthening national societies,

⁶ See Constitution of the Federation, article 2, paragraph 1 and the Statutes of the Movement, article 6, paragraph 3.

⁷ IFRC, Strengthening National Societies and delivering a more effective service: A change Strategy for the Secretariat, IFRC, Geneva, 2003.

improving efficiency and effectiveness through increased cooperation and coherence and improving the Movement's image and its relations with governments and external partners⁸.

At the same time, the VIth European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in April 2002 in Berlin, adopted a 'Berlin Charter', an 'Action Plan on Health' and an 'Action Plan on Migration'. European national societies committed themselves to a wide range of activities addressing the most urgent needs in health and migration in the region. However, the national societies are yet to transform some of their good intentions into measurable outcomes, especially in the area of advocacy and international representation. The Federation has an important role to play in guiding and supporting the national societies for this transformation to happen in the time for the next European Regional Conference in Moscow, in April 2006.

The Regional Conference in Berlin, however, was only one of the statutory meetings in recent years: In 2003, the Council of Delegates and the 28th International Conferences were organised under the theme of 'Protecting human dignity'. This seemed especially appropriate for Europe and Central Asia, where different forms of discrimination directed towards specific communities, such as migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, HIV/AIDS infected persons, Roma or other ethnic minorities, are a daily reality. A pledge by the Federation at the International Conference on 'non-discrimination and respect for diversity'⁹ recognised this reality. Furthermore, governments and national societies have committed to a wide-range of other activities in the core areas of the Strategy 2010. In preparations towards the 2007 International Conference, the Council of Delegates in 2005 has also passed a follow-up resolution on 'Promoting respect for diversity – challenging discrimination and intolerance', which was discussed together with a guidance document for national societies. The fight against discrimination and intolerance thus remains high on the agenda of the national societies and appropriate action needs to be taken.

Background and achievements/lessons to date

The needs in health and care, disaster management and organisational development are addressed through the appeals for Central Europe, Turkey & Caucuses, Russian Federation, Belarus/Moldova/ Ukraine, and Central Asia. The Federation has traditionally supported the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in these countries to strengthen their capacities and assist vulnerable populations. Throughout the years, Federation support has changed lives in the communities and helped to alleviate the suffering of the poor and marginalised.

This assistance, however, can also be achieved through different avenues. All statutory conferences¹⁰ of the 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 fulfilled. The RC/EU office in Brussels, with its mandate to position the Federation and its EU member national societies towards the EU institutions, has gained valuable experience and success in this area. Other European bodies, however, such as the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Organisation for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OCSE) have not been targeted in a systematic way, even though first steps of closer cooperation were taken in 2004. In addition, there has been some contact with other UN bodies of relevance to the region, such as and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the WHO Regional Office in Copenhagen. While contacts with WHO Copenhagen and the 'Stop TB' partnership commenced in 2005, there is a clear need, demonstrated by the activities of the national societies, to increase systematic cooperation with these and other relevant organisations.

A pre-requisite for successful advocacy and international representation is a clear position in key areas, such as health, migration, the promotion of non-discrimination and respect and disaster risk reduction, which has to encompass the diverse perspectives of the region. The Federation seizes all opportunities to inspire, encourage and

⁸ See strategic objectives 1-3 in: IFRC, Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, ICRC/IFRC, Geneva, 2001, as well as the strategic directions in: IFRC, Strategy 2010: To improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity, IFRC, Geneva, 1999.

⁹ See 28th International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference, Non-discrimination and respect for diversity: a pledge by the International Federation, Geneva, 2003. Prior to the International Conference, resolution 9 of the Council of Delegates in 2003 Resolution 9 concerned the same topic.

¹⁰ E.g. VIth European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Berlin 2002, 28th International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference in Geneva 2003, the 15th General Assembly in Seoul 2005, the Council of Delegates in Seoul 2005.

facilitate activities of all 52 European national societies in advocacy and international representation to fulfil its mandate as outlined in the Constitution. A more coordinated and focused effort by the Federation and its Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will give a greater voice to those in need and a stronger influence towards policy makers to more adequately respond to vulnerabilities. Resolutions by governments in international fora are tools that can be used by Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on a national level to improve the lives of the vulnerable populations. Local realities inform policy makers on the international level and international decisions impact on local realities.

A sound communications strategy will serve as a powerful instrument to link local realities to an overarching global approach in advocacy. Europe-specific publications, a coherent approach to the European pages of the public website and the FedNet, including Russian translations, as well as international representation are tools to support the advocacy efforts in few key areas: The Europe & Central Asia pages at FedNet have been updated in 2005. It includes the creation of a 'Russian language corner', which provides an overview of all existing documents in Russian. Coherence between the public website and the FedNet has improved. In 2006, the focus will be to improve the information available and establish these websites as useful tools for communications among and between national societies. Further work will be done on the draft of the Europe Red Cross/Red Crescent Society advocacy and communications strategy to finalise it in the course of the year. As part of the advocacy strategy and in support of national societies' advocacy efforts, an 'advocacy kit' with key messages in the main areas of concern – namely health, migration and disaster management – will be finalised and published.

The Bridge, a Europe-wide magazine, will continue to be published twice a year on specific themes. In 2005, attention was given to 'trafficking in human beings' and 'health and care'. In 2006, the first issue in spring 2006 will focus on the 20th anniversary of Chernobyl and highlight other issues to be discussed in Moscow at the VIIth European Regional Conference. [Link to Bridge \(http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/insight/\)](http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/insight/)

All these ambitions can only be achieved in partnership with, and building on the expertise already existing in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Europe and Central Asia. Thus, special efforts will be undertaken to include the networks of Europe and Central Asia and the reference centres based in Europe in the broader framework of dialogue and cooperation. They are an important source of information with highly qualified national society staff who should be more actively involved in the process of developing coherent positions in key areas, in re-enforced advocacy efforts, as well as in supporting other national societies to deliver their services on local and national level.

The strength of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is also its network of volunteers with its vast knowledge and experience and its commitment towards a common goal. The Regional Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provide an important platform to share experience, create a dialogue and agree on a common path forward to address urgent needs. The VIth European Regional Conference in Berlin in 2002 provided the cornerstone to our collective work in health and migration, themes which will find their way to the next Regional Conference in Moscow in April 2006.

The planning process has been geared up to meet the challenge of organising this statutory meeting. A Steering Committee is engaged in the planning and working groups on the two main themes regularly meet to ensure fruitful discussions. The working group on health is chaired by the French Red Cross, together with the Tajikistan Red Crescent and ERNA. The working group on migration is chaired by Swiss Red Cross, together with Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent and PERCO. In both working groups, advocacy, demographic change and humanitarian values, including the fight against discrimination and the promotion of diversity are included in the deliberations as cross-cutting themes. The Federation secretariat has appointed focal points for these working groups who will ensure the coherence of the planning process of both groups.

In addition, a solidarity fund has been set up in the preparatory process to enable national societies to voluntarily contribute to the financing of the conference. Further fundraising is also being undertaken by the Russian Red Cross Society and the Federation Secretariat. A staff-on-loan position based in Geneva will furthermore support the Russian Red Cross Society in organising the conference. The position is also part of this appeal 2006.

Finally, the Federation will continue its efforts in Europe and Central Asia to adapt its work as outlined above. The review of the structure of the delegations in Central and Eastern Europe will be continued to achieve further synergies across the region and render more appropriate services. Service units, such as the regional reporting unit

and regional finance unit in Ankara, have been well established in the past years and were able to address the needs of both, Eastern and Western European national societies.

Ongoing organisational challenges have prevented thus far the adaptation of efficient disaster response and logistical services to regional needs (building on the expertise in the region where possible). This is now planned in 2006 within the overall reframing of the Europe & Central Asia region. The RC/EU Office's role in Europe will continue to be central in these discussions to ensure a more coherent and holistic approach towards the region.

The rationale of the programme objectives detailed below is to add a cutting edge to the Federation's advocacy so that strategic communications contribute effectively to more 'traditional' efforts to reduce vulnerability. The programme mainstreams advocacy as an integral element of support to national societies.

Goal:

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

Objectives:

1. 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.
2. Supported the Russian Red Cross Society in organizing the VIIth European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Expected results:

Policy, Advocacy & Communications:

- Finalised and started implementation of 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 societies staff at international, regional and national events
- Produced publications (Bridge, thematic brochures) to support the advocacy efforts of the European national societies.

Preparations / Implementation of Moscow Conference

- Successful preparations and implementation of the VIIth European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Moscow in April 2006.

For further information please contact:

Europe Department
 Lynette Lowndes – Head, lynette.lowndes@ifrc.org
 Tel.: + 41 22 730 4431
 Fax: + 41 22 733 0395

Michaela Told – Senior Officer. michaela.told@ifrc.org
 Tel.: + 41 22 730 4424
 Fax: + 41 22 733 0395

This appeal seeks to fund programmes to be implemented in 2006 and 2007. These programmes are aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity":

Global Agenda Goals

1. Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
2. Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
3. Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

4. Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

The International Federation's is the world's largest humanitarian organization, and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries. Our aim is to build safer communities, able to prevent and respond to human suffering in times of crises and distress, and where people work together to promote hope, dignity and equity. We work to support vulnerable communities through neutral, impartial, independent humanitarian action, in accordance with our Fundamental Principles and in line with the Red Cross Red Crescent Code of Conduct, the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, and the SPHERE Project.

BUDGET 2006

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: MA66002

Name: Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities in Europe

PROGRAMME:

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & Textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & Plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & First Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teaching Materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Supplies & Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & Telecom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND, VEHICLES & EQUIPMEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicles cost	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Staff	0	0	0	0	227,000	0	227,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Society Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PERSONNEL	0	0	0	0	227,000	0	227,000
Workshops & Training	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
Travel & related expenses	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
Information & Public Rela	0	0	0	0	100,000	0	100,000
Office Running Costs	0	0	0	0	9,900	0	9,900
Communication Costs	0	0	0	0	2,520	0	2,520
Professional Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other General Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GENERAL EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	122,420	0	122,420
Asset Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DEPRECIATION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contributions & Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRIBUTIONS & TRANSFERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Programme Support	0	0	0	0	24,986	0	24,986
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	0	0	0	0	24,986	0	24,986
TOTAL BUDGET:	0	0	0	0	384,406	0	384,406

BUDGET 2007

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: MA66002

Name: Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities in Europe

PROGRAMME:

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & Textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & Plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & First Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teaching Materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Supplies & Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & Telecom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND, VEHICLES & EQUIPMEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicles cost	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Staff	0	0	0	0	158,000	0	158,000
Regionally Deployed Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Society Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PERSONNEL	0	0	0	0	158,000	0	158,000
Workshops & Training	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
Travel & related expenses	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
Information & Public Rela	0	0	0	0	100,000	0	100,000
Office Running Costs	0	0	0	0	6,600	0	6,600
Communication Costs	0	0	0	0	1,680	0	1,680
Professional Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other General Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GENERAL EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	118,280	0	118,280
Asset Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DEPRECIATION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contributions & Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRIBUTIONS & TRANSFERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Programme Support	0	0	0	0	19,901	0	19,901
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	0	0	0	0	19,901	0	19,901
TOTAL BUDGET:	0	0	0	0	306,181	0	306,181