

Report 2006-2007



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Voicing hidden vulnerabilities in Europe and Central Asia

Appeal No. MAA66002

This report covers the period of 1/01/2006 to 31/12/2006 of a two-year planning and appeal process.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



Climate change poses a threat to communities across Europe and Central Asia.

In brief

Programme Summary: The collective approach to voicing hidden vulnerabilities in Europe and Central Asia works in tandem with the National Societies' domestic programmes in 52 countries as well as the Federation capacity building activities in several locations via its country and regional programmes. The overall goal of the programme is to 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.

It was decided in the course of 2006 that the budget to support the VII European Regional Conference would no longer be part of the Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities appeal. All organizational and administrative support to the regional conference will, as of January 2007, be directly under the Federation's Europe department and accordingly will be reported upon separately after the conference has been held. Also the Senior Officer on Policy and Advocacy position ceased to exist as of November 2006. To reflect these changes, the appeal budget was revised.

At the same time, a third objective was introduced to this appeal to appropriately reflect the work which is carried out to support the clarifications of roles and responsibilities in governance and management across the region.

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget was initially CHF 690 588 (USD 560 650 or EUR 440 000) The

revised two-year appeal target is CHF 394,620 (USD 327,050 or EUR 240,895) with an appeal coverage of 63 per cent. In consequence, the 2006 budget decreased from CHF 384,406 to CHF 221,946 (USD 183,940 or EUR 135,500) and the 2007 budget will be accordingly downsized from CHF 306,181 to CHF 172,674 (USD 143,105 or EUR 105,450). [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we help: As a programme that works to support National Societies in their advocacy and programme work, it is difficult to say how many people have been helped. However, the 52 National Societies of Europe and Central Asia have benefited in some way from the activities carried out under this appeal.

Our Partners: A total of 26 community-based, national, government-based, international organizations, the United Nations, developmental agencies and partners within the Movement. The main donors of the programme were the Austrian, the Finnish, the Swedish and the German Red Cross Societies. Greater donor support is still sought in order to ensure that the expected results of this appeal can be met.

Current context

This Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities appeal seeks to better align the International Federation's voice, presence and action in influential national, regional and international forums in order to make a positive difference to people's lives.

The activities of this appeal are not only shaped by the general context of Europe and Central Asia, but are also particularly influenced by the current 'Federation of the Future' process within the Federation. As discussions in regards to the structure of regional departments are still ongoing, the Europe Department already started to work in a different way in terms of its governance/management support to the National Societies across Europe and Central Asia. This new working modality has become part of this appeal and is reflected in this annual report.

Progress towards objectives

Objective 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.

The global *advocacy and communications strategy* of the International Federation was approved by the Governing Board only in late October 2006 after many months of discussions. This delayed process had major implications for the work within the Europe Department to create a coherent advocacy and communications strategy because a regional European strategy can only be formulated once the global strategy has been finalized. Further work on this expected result can only be continued next year, on condition that a specific person will be assigned to lead this process replacing the previous staff-on-loan Senior Officer on policy and advocacy.

National Societies in the region are more and more requesting advice on policy and advocacy matters. In an environment of increased tensions and polarisation, many of the Western European National Societies want to position themselves towards the European Union (EU) concerning policies on migration, health and care, as well as civil protection. In this regard, support has been provided by the Secretariat to the EU office in formulating different positions related to the above mentioned topics.

Among the priorities of the National Societies in Europe and Central Asia are addressing the different disasters that the region faces, through building adequate response mechanisms, making communities

better prepared; hence reducing the risks and impact of disasters and health situations. Floods, earthquakes, climate change, poverty-induced disasters, the growing rates of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis affect the lives of many millions of people and have a negative effect upon economic and social development. In addition, migration flows resulting from push factors such as extreme poverty, or people fleeing harsh environmental conditions or disasters pose severe challenges both for the countries stripped of their human assets and the new homes that bear a responsibility for their well being, at least in the short term.

Linked to the policy and advocacy support is support to *regional networks* in Europe. Currently, 11 networks and three reference centres exist in Europe and Central Asia with increasing interest to participate in the activities of the International Federation at the global level. A meeting of all chairpersons of European networks and directors of reference centres based in Europe was organised on 25-26 September 2006 in Geneva. Discussions focused mainly on the inclusion of networks and reference centres in the policy-making of the International Federation. The Europe Department therefore responded to the growing demand and request of networks and reference centres to be accepted as knowledgeable partners and as centres of expertise.

The '*European Stop TB Partnership*' as one of the important global alliances has kicked off its work at full speed with a new full time person on board who is located in the health and care department. The partnership still remains within the Europe region, however, responsibility of implementation has now been transferred fully to the health and care department and thus, further reporting on this alliance will in future not be within this appeal.

In order to stimulate discussions and exchanges of experience among National Societies in Europe and Central Asia, and to position the International Federation, the Europe-wide *Bridge* magazine has been published twice in the course of the year. Each issue of *the Bridge* focuses on one particular theme and provides a pan-European perspective on it. Many National Societies, as a practise, are regularly submitting the magazine to their governments to provide an overview of the activities within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, therefore it has become an important communication and advocacy tool. *The Bridge* is published both in English and Russian in order to serve the wider region of Europe and Central Asia.

The spring 2006 issue focused on humanitarian values and migration, the National Societies in Europe and Central Asia presented their activities on reducing discrimination, respect for diversity and spoke out on migration issues. The winter 2006-7 edition thematically focused on disaster preparedness and disaster response, covering also "non traditional" disasters, such as climate change, poverty-induced disasters and migration flows.

The major constraint the Bridge faces is the limited resources that exist for its production and an insecure funding climate. The value of the Bridge has been recognized by the National Societies and other actors across Europe but this wider interest has not actually been reflected in the pledges recieved. Nevertheless, efforts are being undertaken to continue with the publication of *the Bridge* twice a year.

Objective 2: Support the Turkish Red Crescent Society, in organizing the VII European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Originally the VII European Conference was planned to be organized in Moscow. However, due to organisational constraints, the Governing Board took the decision in February 2006 to postpone and switch the venue of the conference to Istanbul. The European Conference will now be held in May 2007, hosted by the Turkish Red Crescent.

The substance of the conference was re-evaluated in light of the postponement. The main themes that had been identified– health and care and miaration- were kept following extensive discussions at the

Conference Steering Committee and the Conference Planning Committee. Their enduring importance in the European context was recognized.

Movement matters were included in the agenda and were identified as follows: Seville Agreement and Supplementary Measures, the 30th International Conference, and the Council of Delegates 2007. A reference to the Federation of the Future and the Global Agenda was decided to be made in both working groups; health & care and migration.

A solidarity fund, established already in 2005, was re-activated in 2006 to provide financial assistance to 20 National Societies in Europe and Central Asia for their travel and accommodation expenses.

A staff-on-loan position to act as conference officer based in Geneva to support the host society in organizing the conference was financially supported by the Swedish and Finnish Red Cross Societies. The person to take up the respective position was not chosen.

The VII European Regional Conference with the solidarity fund and one staff-on-loan position of a conference officer based in Geneva to support the host society was part of this appeal until the end of 2006. For practical purposes it was decided that the conference will, instead of being part of Voicing Hidden Vulnerabilities Appeal, be directly under the Federation Europe department and accordingly will be reported separately after the conference has been held. Consequently, this objective will be deleted from this appeal and thus no reporting will be carried out on conference-related activities under this appeal in 2007.

Objective 3: National Societies are supported in clarifying the role of governance and management.

This objective was introduced to the appeal at a later stage, with the aim of aligning the Europe Department to the discussions of the Federation of the Future process and to its new operating model. Clarification of the role of governance and management is considered as one of the most important criteria for a well-functioning National Society by Strategy 2010 and therefore the Federation Secretariat has a mandatory responsibility to provide support to the National Societies engaged in such a change process. It is not a new activity for the Europe Department as Central Asia, for instance, had initiated a pilot project at the end of 2002, but it was decided to structure the support to the National Societies in this field in a different way. In order to implement this objective, the Europe Department hired a consultant with strong expertise in the field of National Societies' statutory matters and fluent in Russian language, a definite advantage when dealing with National Societies from the ex-Soviet Union. Although his contract was established for one year, the intention is to extend this position in the future, thus allowing a mid to long term engagement with the National Societies on this complex issue.

During 2006, the consultant provided various types of consultancy support, such as support on the revision and implementation of their statutes, clarification of governance and management functions, optimization of the organisational structures, elaboration of the improved management procedures and standards. The work was done in close cooperation with the Federation representations in the region, with the Secretariat's Governance Support Unit, as well as with the ICRC and other partner National Societies interested in this activity, particularly the Swedish, the Swiss, the Austrian and the German Red Cross Societies, who also contributed financially to the project.

Major progress has been seen in Central Asia where most societies have finalized their statutes revision and are now working on the implementation of the new statutes. During the course of 2006, National Societies of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan benefited from consultancy missions, two per each National Society. Consultations included discussions on the following urgent issues:

- Kyrgyzstan - implementation of the new statutes, branch development concept, managerial issues;
- Turkmenistan - finalization of the statutory revision process, with the final edition taking

consideration of the ICRC-IFRC Joint Commission comments, preparation of the National Society Congress;

- Uzbekistan - support on the development of the Uzbekistan Red Crescent statutes implementation plan, verification and edition of the statutory texts in Russian and English from the legal point of view;
- Tajikistan - support in managing integrity issues within change process, and development of the plan of action for the preparation of upcoming elections envisaged by the newly adopted statutes.

Missions included meetings with governing board members and different level leadership of the societies, PNS representatives, ICRC, and government authorities. National Societies are in contact with the consultant in between the missions, and consultations are provided through communication means. Reports on missions are translated into Russian and shared with the National Societies and other involved parties.

Further support was provided to the Georgian Red Cross related to its reform process. The Russian Red Cross received assistance in analysis and comments on the final draft of its Statutes. At the end of the year, the Belarus Red Cross engaged in a process of revising its legal base, the statutes, strategic planning, and in the improvement of the National Society headquarters organisational structure. The consultant's support to the Belarus Red Cross, consisting of visits and phone/e-mail contact, was planned for the whole 2007. His programme has been established in cooperation with the Belarus Red Cross and a consortium of National Societies (the Austrian, the German and the Swiss Red Cross Societies) operating in Belarus.

The support provided to the National Societies by the consultant has been unanimously considered of great value. For this reason the Europe Department is aiming at extending his contract beyond March 2007 which also implies that the budget will slightly increase for this objective in 2007.

Working in partnership

Preparations of the VII European Regional Conference substance continued throughout the year in the most participatory way. The health and care theme working group, chaired by the French Red Cross and co-chaired by ERNA (European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS) and the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society involved also a number of other societies from the region into the preparations. The same applied with the migration working group, chaired by the Swiss Red Cross and co-chaired by PERCO (Platform for European Red Cross Co-operation on Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Migrants) and the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society.

All activities of the governance and management consultant are the results of a strong cooperation and dialogue with the National Societies requesting support, with partner National Societies having a strong interest in the activity, such as the Swedish, the Swiss, the German and the Austrian Red Cross Societies, and with ICRC.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Assisting those European National Societies willing to improve and strengthen their statutes, legal base, and organisational structure is an essential part of the Federation membership services aiming at strengthening the National Societies' capacity to deliver the Strategy 2010 and the Global Agenda.

Looking Ahead

The progress and successes experienced in the field of support to the National Societies' governance

and management functions are encouraging. The structure in which this support is provided, and the interest shown by some partner National Societies as well as the ICRC indicate that it is a relevant approach, both in terms of actual support and in terms of new ways for partners of working together. It will therefore be continued throughout 2007, with an increased effort to expand it to the rest of the region, and a sustained aim at involving other partners.

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| Selected Parameters | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2006/01-2006/12 |
| Budget Timeframe | 2006/01-2007/12 |
| Appeal | MAA66002 |
| 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 | | | | | 394,620 | 394,620 |
| B. Opening Balance | | | | | 129,058 | 129,058 |
| Income | | | | | | |
| <u>Cash contributions (received)</u> | | | | | | |
| <i>Austrian Red Cross</i> | | | | | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| <i>British Red Cross</i> | | | | | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| <i>DFID Partnership</i> | | | | | 10,174 | 10,174 |
| <i>Finnish Red Cross</i> | | | | | 28,173 | 28,173 |
| <i>German Red Cross</i> | | | | | 27,528 | 27,528 |
| <i>Irish Red Cross</i> | | | | | 3,937 | 3,937 |
| <i>Swedish Red Cross</i> | | | | | 49,925 | 49,925 |
| C1. Cash contributions | | | | | 149,736 | 149,736 |
| <u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u> | | | | | | |
| <i>Finnish Red Cross</i> | | | | | -28,173 | -28,173 |
| <i>German Red Cross</i> | | | | | 26,738 | 26,738 |
| C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued) | | | | | -1,435 | -1,435 |
| <u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u> | | | | | | |
| <i>Finnish Red Cross</i> | | | | | -28,173 | -28,173 |
| <i>Italian Red Cross</i> | | | | | -8,644 | -8,644 |
| <i>Swedish Red Cross</i> | | | | | -28,000 | -28,000 |
| C3. Reallocations (within appeal or | | | | | -64,817 | -64,817 |
| <u>Inkind Personnel</u> | | | | | | |
| <i>Austrian Red Cross</i> | | | | | 34,100 | 34,100 |
| C5. Inkind Personnel | | | | | 34,100 | 34,100 |
| C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6) | | | | | 117,585 | 117,585 |
| D. Total Funding = B + C | | | | | 246,643 | 246,643 |

II. Balance of Funds

| | Health & Care | Disaster Management | Humanitarian Values | Organisational Development | Coordination & Implementation | TOTAL |
|---|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| B. Opening Balance | | | | | 129,058 | 129,058 |
| C. Income | | | | | 117,585 | 117,585 |
| E. Expenditure | | | | | -184,624 | -184,624 |
| F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E) | | | | | 62,019 | 62,019 |

| Selected Parameters | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2006/01-2006/12 |
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| Appeal | MAA66002 |
| 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) | | | | | | | 394,620 | 394,620 | |
| Personnel Expenditures | | | | | | | | | |
| International Staff Payroll Benefits | 63,250 | | | | | 60,934 | 60,934 | 2,316 | |
| Consultants | 137,850 | | | | | 101,207 | 101,207 | 36,643 | |
| Total Personnel Expenditures | 201,100 | | | | | 162,140 | 162,140 | 38,960 | |
| General Expenditure | | | | | | | | | |
| Travel | 3,000 | | | | | 788 | 788 | 2,212 | |
| Information & Public Relation | 160,000 | | | | | 4,347 | 4,347 | 155,653 | |
| Office Costs | 3,190 | | | | | 3,190 | 3,190 | 0 | |
| Communications | 1,680 | | | | | 1,517 | 1,517 | 163 | |
| Financial Charges | | | | | | 353 | 353 | -353 | |
| Other General Expenses | | | | | | 432 | 432 | -432 | |
| Total General Expenditure | 167,870 | | | | | 10,627 | 10,627 | 157,243 | |
| Program Support | | | | | | | | | |
| Program Support | 25,650 | | | | | 11,856 | 11,856 | 13,794 | |
| Total Program Support | 25,650 | | | | | 11,856 | 11,856 | 13,794 | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D) | 394,620 | | | | | | 184,624 | 184,624 | 209,996 |
| VARIANCE (C - D) | | | | | | | 209,996 | 209,996 | |