

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO/KOSOVO – SPECIAL FOCUS ON KOSOVO WINTER ASSISTANCE

**Appeal No.MAACS001
6 November 2006**

The Federation's vision is to strive, through voluntary action, for a world of empowered communities, better able to address human suffering and crises with hope, respect for dignity and a concern for equity. Its 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 185 countries.

In Brief

Programme Update No. 3

Revised appeal target for 2006: CHF 866,934; Appeal coverage: 66%

The Federation in Kosovo is seeking CHF 55,783 for purchasing relief and assistance items, distribution, transport and administration costs for both Red Cross organizations in Kosovo. Assistance (in-kind) and un-earmarked funds from donors are appreciated. As the situation evolves, further information will be provided.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Serbia and Montenegro/Kosovo Annual Appeal 2006/2007. For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAACS001.pdf

Serbia and Montenegro/Kosovo Annual Appeal 2006/2007 – Programme Update no.1. For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAACS00101.pdf

Serbia and Montenegro/Kosovo Annual Appeal 2006/2007 – Programme Update no.2 (Focus on Kosovo Revision). For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAACS00102.pdf

The programmes herein are aligned with the Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission:

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.

Programme summary

In 2006, the Federation Office in Kosovo has continued to work in strengthening the organizational and operational capacity of the two local Red Cross organizations, the Red Cross of Kosova (RCK) and the Red Cross of Kosovo and Metohija (RCKM), to carry out effective health, social and disaster management programmes in order to improve the situation of the most vulnerable people.

The annual appeal 2006-2007 for Kosovo indicated that the Federation will provide technical and financial support to the local Red Cross organizations in the following programme areas:

- Organisational Development
- Youth Development
- Disaster Management
- Health & Care
- Social Welfare

As reported in the Programme Update No.2, the Federation Office revised the Kosovo appeal due to *a significant lack of financial support*. However, since July, the funding situation has only marginally improved. Until the end of October 2006, only 66% of the appeal budget for 2006 was covered.

This Programme Update no.3 focuses on the activities related to winter assistance for elderly people without family support and the funding difficulties to implement this activity.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Context

Poverty affects about half of the population in Kosovo. While the poverty of the majority of people is relatively shallow, i.e. close to poverty line (approx. 37% of the population are living on less than €1.42 per day), there is an increasing number of people which is classified as living in extreme poverty (more than 15% of the population living on less than €0.93 per day). Among the groups which are disproportionately affected by this widespread poverty are children, the elderly, female-headed households, the disabled and non-Serb ethnic minorities.¹

The demographic displacement observed during the conflict – and still present in Kosovo – had strong implications on the demographic composition of the poor, with important differences across urban and rural areas and ethnic groups. It is estimated that approximately 65% of the extremely poor live in rural areas.

Poverty in Kosovo is mainly related to the limitations to generate an income: with a continuously stagnating and declining economy, unemployment is very high (close to 50%) and thus the main cause of poverty. In addition, the high dependency ratio in poorer households and declining private remittances from abroad further exacerbate the situation.

¹ World Bank Poverty Assessment 2005

Social Welfare Programme

Special focus on activities related to winter assistance for elderly

The International Federation Office in Kosovo had anticipated the need to provide winter support to elderly in its 2006/2007 Appeal under the Social Welfare Programme (Home Care Project). However, the Appeal is rather under-funded with only 66% of required funding available at the end of October. **The Social Welfare Programme is funded at 68%. However, 77% of these are funds earmarked for other activities which do not include the winterization assistance.** As a consequence, the Federation Office is not in a position to support the local RC organizations in providing winter assistance to the elderly in Kosovo despite cold weather with temperatures below zero and first snowfall during the first week of November.

The elderly beneficiaries identified by the Red Cross organizations are living mainly in remote mountain areas, a circumstance which makes their lives more difficult.

The elderly continue to be one of the most vulnerable and growing groups in Kosovo. According to Kosovo Statistical Office, the estimated percentage of persons older than 65 years in 2005 was 7.3%. The percentage in 2003 was 6.2%. There are only two institutions in Kosovo offering social and health care services to a limited number of elderly. Currently, there are 220 elderly persons of different nationalities accommodated in these institutions.

There are limited services or assistance provided to elderly by other agencies or organizations mainly in providing some food and non-food items. Some of these elderly are also living in isolated places with no proper care and limited access to health and social services.

During October 2006, both Red Cross organizations in Kosovo carried out an assessment to determine the needs and actions to be undertaken in order to assist vulnerable elderly persons without family support during the winter. Despite the fact that winter assistance is already provided by various other organisations to the various vulnerable groups in Kosovo, the Red Cross organizations in Kosovo have identified **440 elderly persons without family support** who are not receiving any assistance but are extremely vulnerable in this coming winter. Due to the isolated location of some villages and their inaccessibility during the winter, it is necessary to provide emergency winter assistance *as soon as possible* and before the full onset of winter.

The following activities are required to support the Red Cross organizations in providing winterization services for the most vulnerable elderly to survive the coming winter in Kosovo:

- Provision of firewood and wood stoves (traditional and readily available heating source)
- Procurement of food and non-food items
- Distribution of food and hygienic parcels
- Preparation of data reporting and monitoring of distribution

In response to the winterization emergency needs indicated during the assessment, the following items and support would be required for the identified beneficiaries:

Item	No of beneficiaries
Wood stoves	29 beneficiaries
Firewood (at 2 m ³ per beneficiary)	305 beneficiaries
Food parcels	283 beneficiaries
Hygiene parcels	207 beneficiaries

In order to respond to the needs outlined above, and to be able to contribute to fulfilling the Global Agenda Goal No.1 (to reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters), the Federation in Kosovo is seeking CHF 55,783 for purchasing relief and assistance items, distribution, transport and administration costs for both Red Cross organizations in Kosovo.

The International Federation will coordinate all activities with the Social Welfare Coordinators of the Red Cross of Kosova (RCK) and the Red Cross of Kosovo and Metohija (RCKM). Red Cross branch secretaries of both organizations coordinate the work of the volunteers in their areas of responsibility. The Federation

**Serbia and Montenegro/Kosovo Annual Appeal 2006/2007; Appeal no.MAACS001; Programme Update no.3
(Special Focus on Kosovo Winter Assistance)**

and both Red Cross organizations continuously monitor the needs of the beneficiaries and the assistance provided in the field.

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