

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA: ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND SOCIALY VULNERABLE

13 August 1999

*appeal no. 01.38/99; With this Final report, this Appeal is now closed and replaced by the International Red cross and Red crescent Movement's Integrated Appeal in Response to the Crisis in the Balkans
period covered: January-March 1999
Budget revision*

The International Federation's operation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will continue for the remainder of 1999 as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Integrated Appeal in Response to the Crisis in the Balkans. Please refer to the reports which have been regularly issued since the start of the current Balkan crisis.

The context

The signing of the Dayton Agreement in 1995 brought an end to four years of fighting in the former Yugoslavia. It also left the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) with 566,000 refugees, mainly from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and 79,000 war-affected people. At the beginning of 1999, some 42,000 people were still living in collective centres while hundreds of thousands of refugees were living in host families. A plan for the repatriation of refugees to Bosnia-Herzegovina was included in the Dayton agreement. A plan for returnees was also included in the separate agreement on Eastern Slavonia. However, repatriation has been very slow. The remaining alternative, integration into the Federal Republic, has been difficult due to government reluctance to establish a secure legal base for the refugees in their new homes. The deepening socio-economic crisis, caused by the effects of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and the stuttering transformation to a market economy was exacerbated by the re-imposition of sanctions in 1998 following the outbreak of the conflict in the southern province of Kosovo.

The appeal

The Emergency Appeal 1999 sought a total of CHF 8,783,000, targeting 232,000 beneficiaries, including 225,500 of the most vulnerable refugees in FRY, 8,100 refugee mothers with new-born babies, and 6,500 socially vulnerable people in Kosovo.

This budget has been revised to CHF 1,682,000 reflecting the actual expenditure from the period January 1 - March 31. The cash balance of CHF 1,299,793.53 and all outstanding pledges have been or will be transferred to the Integrated Appeal

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The International Federation established its country delegation in FRY in 1992 to support the Yugoslav Red Cross (YRC) in dealing with the refugee crisis which emerged from the conflict created by the break up of the former republic of Yugoslavia. This support continued for the first quarter of 1999 as set out in the Emergency Appeal; however, following the failure of the Rambouillet negotiations and the start of the Nato air campaign on 24 March, both the International Federation and ICRC decided to maintain and expand all their activities in the Federal Republic under the umbrella of the Integrated Appeal of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Response to the Crisis in the Balkans, launched on 7 April, 1999. The starting date for the programme covered in this report was therefore 1 January 1999, and the closing date 31 March 1999.

Needs assessment •

The needs assessment for the Emergency Appeal 1999 was carried out by respective programme officers in October 1998. During the review period, the plan of action was not revised.

Objectives •

- ◆ To provide essential hygiene sets to meet the needs of 225,500 of the most vulnerable refugees in FRY through three distributions (a total of 676,500 sets) to all refugees in collective centres, single parent families, mentally or physically disabled or chronically ill persons, elderly persons without other means of support and destitute refugees.
- ◆ To provide baby hygiene parcels to 8,100 refugee mothers with new-born babies.
- ◆ To provide cleaning kits for 780 refugee collective centres.
- ◆ To support 6,500 socially vulnerable people in Kosovo with food aid and essential hygiene sets.
- ◆ To continue to support social welfare services benefiting refugees and the socially vulnerable through psychological counselling, recreational and cultural counselling activities and to provide refugees with access to unbiased accurate and timely information by supporting publications run by refugee self-help groups.
- ◆ To support the institutional development of YRC, in particular in the following key areas - organisational development, information systems, human resources, governance, fund raising and public relations.
- ◆ To continue to fund branch-level income-generating projects.
- ◆ To help the YRC develop further its traditional activities in the fields of health and youth through training of trainers in the field of voluntary blood donation, health education and prevention and training young Red Cross volunteers in traditional activities and support to vulnerable children.

Outcome •

- ◆ The objectives and proposed programme were carried out as originally planned until March, when the decision was taken to include these activities in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Integrated Appeal in Response to the Crisis in the Balkans.
- ◆ During the first quarter of the year, no difficulties concerning the selection of beneficiaries, organisation of distribution, procurement or warehousing were identified. Relations with the YRC, ICRC, UNHCR, WFP and government/local authorities were extremely good.
- ◆ The only difficulty identified was the tremendous amount of relief goods to be distributed in a short time in January. However, this problem was solved by the YRC, which hired extra trucks for the transportation.

- ◆ All relief items were distributed through the YRC's logistics and distribution network which covers the whole country.
- ◆ A total of 188,501 hygiene parcels from the US government and the Swedish Red Cross (provided in the final months of 1998) were distributed in the first quarter of 1999.
- ◆ Some 168,674 hygiene parcels (valued at CHF 740,572) provided by the Swedish government arrived during the review period and were distributed between mid March and May 1999.
- ◆ Approximately 57,500 German Red Cross hygiene parcels (valued at CHF 260,950) arrived 1-9 March and were distributed 17 May - 5 June 1999.
- ◆ Some 112,111 ECHO hygiene parcels (valued at CHF 143,750) arrived in March/April and were distributed over the following weeks.
- ◆ Winter items from the German, British and Danish Red Cross Societies comprising 37.8 MT (valued at CHF 410,000) of winter shoes, underwear sets, hats and socks for mountainous regions of Nis, Kraljevo and Montenegro arrived in January and were distributed between mid-February and mid-March.
- ◆ Some 52.25 MT Federation funded items (valued at CHF 141,209) to enhance the YRC's disaster preparedness capacity - comprising foldable beds, bed sets and blankets - were delivered in February.
- ◆ Food distributions supported by ECHO included: wheat-flour (173,000 kg), pulses (56,000 kg) and vegetable oil (52,000 litres).
- ◆ In addition to the items mentioned above, 8,100 baby parcels supplied by the German Red Cross (valued at CHF 182,572) arrived in May, emergency items (sleeping bags, batteries, candles) and generators (CHF 89,170) funded by the International Federation and computers and office equipment provided by the British Red Cross (CHF 203,830) arrived in April, in response to the Emergency Appeal 1999.
- ◆ 200 Red Cross volunteers received health training in the first two months of the year.

The Delegation •

The Country Delegation in FRY is comprised of a delegation in Belgrade, and sub-delegations in Pristina (Kosovo) and Podgorica (Montenegro). Five expatriates were assigned to the Belgrade delegation (with a Head of Delegation, and Relief, Logistics, Finance and Information delegates), two to the sub-delegation in Pristina (Head, and Relief) and one to the sub-delegation in Podgorica. The sub-delegation in Pristina was closed down and the expatriates withdrawn to Belgrade on 22 March.

Contributions

See attached for budget and financial details, as well as the List of Contributions.

Peter Rees-Gildea
 Director
 Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Renny Nancholas
 Director
 Europe Department