

***FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
YUGOSLAVIA: HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE FOR ENDURING
EMERGENCIES***

18 August 2000

appeal no. 01.36/2000 (budget revision)

situation report no. 3

*period covered: Half year review (situation report no.1 covered January-March and
situation report no.2 April-May 2000)*

Very significant humanitarian assistance activities continue to be carried out in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and yet the donor support has not met the needs nor expectations. The Federation, in support of the Yugoslav Red Cross (YRC), has therefore undertaken an exercise to review the programmes and is hereby proposing a revision which will bring the activities more in line with the budget. The overall budget will be decreased from CHF 48,087,339 to CHF 44,604,243, primarily in relief activities, while a new Home Care programme is being proposed, as well as an increase in Repatriation/Reintegration programme.

The context

The Kosovo Crisis of 1999 resulted not only in the plight of some 800,000 ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, but also in death, destruction and suffering, with the heavy psychological effects. While the majority of those who fled have returned to Kosovo, mass graves are still being discovered, with the ICRC having registered 3,368 people missing since January 1998 in the province. The Province of Kosovo remains in a state of flux, with continued acts of intimidation, violence and cold-blooded murder being a regular occurrence, making the lives of other ethnic groups impossible. The difficult socio-economic and political situation, specially in Serbia, has caused further hardship for all inhabitants, resulting not only in

the refugee and internally displaced population needing humanitarian assistance, but increasingly, the average citizen, who has now become social cases. Both internal and external factors contribute to the downward economic trend. International sanctions and isolation coupled with the internal trade blockade between the two remaining Yugoslav republics (Serbia and Montenegro) further disintegrate the economic situation for citizens of both republics. Indeed, uncertainty regarding the shape of relations between Montenegro and Serbia continue to create rhetoric between the respective regimes, with 2 June local elections in Montenegro, demonstrating that the local community remains polarised in their political perspective.

Latest events

Over the past six months a series of assassinations swept across the FR Yugoslavia while the acts of violence in Kosovo were not only directed at minority groups but affected also the ethnic Albanian population in their internal struggle.

A change in the Yugoslav Constitution, allowing the current President to run for a new term in office, while also diminishing the influence of Montenegro, and steps taken to pass an Anti-terrorist Bill have increased population concern and received criticism in Montenegro. Similarly, yet another crackdown of the Government against the opposition media resulted in rallies organised in many Serbian cities. Some rallies resulted in clashes and the detainment of participants including members of the *Otpor* student group.

As the polarised results of the June local elections in Herceg Novi and Podgorica demonstrated, the issue of Montenegro's independence from the FR Yugoslavia is complex. An increase in rhetoric between the Yugoslav Army and the Montenegrin government was noted, however tension during the period remained low. The ongoing internal trade blockade between Serbia and Montenegro, while easing somewhat, still caused problems, with the cost of living in Montenegro also increasing due to the introduction of DEM as an unofficial means of payment. However, Montenegro successfully forged further economic ties with its neighbours and received financial pledges from international donors including the Stability Pact while Serbia receiving support from Russia and China. Although the flight ban imposed on Serbia has been lifted for a six-month period, sanctions continue including a ban on trade with all Serbian enterprises, excluding only those on the so called *White List*.

Environmental disasters have also occurred. Vojvodina, which is the main agricultural region, suffered from severe flooding and now encounters a drought, with UNOCHA stating that the wheat harvest could decrease by 30%. Furthermore, a cyanide spill from a Romanian mine not only left thousands of fish dead, but also high levels of heavy metals in Serbia's rivers. The effects of the NATO bombardments continue to cause environmental deprivation specially due to depleted uranium.

Recent violence between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in the volatile southern part of Serbia proper (Presevo-Bujanovac-Madvedja) reached its peak in the spring, resulting in thousands of ethnic Albanians fleeing for Kosovo, often for fear of reprisals. A year after the beginning of the international operation in Kosovo, there is little sign of a sustainable long-term solution. General lawlessness and criminality have been on the rise, with acts of intimidation and murder continuing, targeted against Serbs and other ethnic groups in the province. This situation particularly escalated over the second quarter of the year, coinciding with the Kosovo Crisis first anniversary. The northern city of Mitrovica remains the epicentre of ethnic-related violence, with clashes occurring between KFOR troops, Serbs and ethnic Albanians. In June, the security situation resulted in UN agencies temporarily withdrawing from northern Mitrovica. With the establishment of the Joint Administrative Structures, debates around Serbian participation continue, with divisions emerging in the Serb National Council. The OSCE mission in Kosovo, to date, registered 800,000 people in their census. Preparations have been also made for the introduction of UNMIK's new social assistance programme which will provide support to the most vulnerable families in Kosovo, in conjunction with the gradual phasing-down of humanitarian assistance.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit Country Report, real GDP contracted by over 23% in 1999, with the trade deficit for the first quarter of 2000 at US\$500m, while the average annual inflation for 2000 is expected to accelerate to 50%. It is estimated that there are 1.5 million pensioners and 2 million unemployed (G17, July '99). These two sectors of society, coupled with over 700,000 refugees and IDPs, have been the worst affected by poverty. Recently, a Vulnerability Assessment concluded that more than one million people in the FR Yugoslavia are currently living below the poverty line. According to the *Independence* union, pensioners in Serbia received in June an average pension of 37 DEM for the entire month. Similarly OCHA, in their Humanitarian Risk Analysis stated that the average salary decreased again in May, being just 89 DEM, with the OCHA monthly family shopping basket for four people, purchased on the grey market, costing over twice the average salary.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The 2000-2001 Federation Strategy for the FR Yugoslavia is twofold. Firstly, to assist, in cooperation and coordination with the YRC and the ICRC, the most vulnerable refugees, IDPs and social cases, with the Federation primarily focussing on the refugee category of beneficiaries in Serbia proper and Montenegro, providing extensive food and non-food items. Secondly, to support longer-term capacity building programmes in the whole of the FR Yugoslavia.

In order to respond to the evolving external situation and the increasing poverty level as well as to further improve the Yugoslav Red Cross capacity to meet the growing needs, the Federation has made a mid-year review of its planned 2000 relief and non-relief activities.

Further emphasis will be placed on the capacity building of the National Society and the expansion of traditional Red Cross activities, including:

- Institutional development (including Kosovo)
- Income Generating Projects
- Youth Development
- Social Welfare & Kosovo Psycho-Social Support
- Preventative/educational health and voluntary blood donation
- Promotion of Humanitarian Values & Public Awareness
- Disaster Preparedness

Deteriorating situation has had a particularly negative impact on the elderly i.e. 1.5 million pensioners representing around 15% of the total population. Due to the government's falling revenue, pensions are irregular and low and the elderly became a particularly poor category. The YRC branches have also noted the growing needs of this sector. Consequently, the YRC, supported by the Federation, will be revitalising the traditional Home Care Project, which will focus on support for the most vulnerable elderly including those living alone in remote areas, the sick and handicapped.

With a favourable political change taking place in Croatia regarding refugee return, the YRC supported by the Federation, in conjunction with the Croatian Red Cross, aims to expand the Repatriation/Reintegration programme, to include the provision of relief items to returnees, with the project ultimately having a sub-regional approach, incorporating the Red Cross entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

General Operations •

An operational Vulnerability Assessment, entitled "IDPs and Refugee Living Conditions", carried out by a well respected independent Belgrade based research company, was conducted over a three month period, with funding from the Norwegian Red Cross Society. The Belgrade Research Institute conducted face-to-face interviews with 1,200 refugees, 800 IDPs and a sample group of 500 other people. The findings in the assessment have enabled the Federation to further tailor their operations.

Relief Programmes •

The Federation, which focuses its relief operation on Serbia proper and Montenegro, has five fully functioning Field Offices in Serbia and one Sub-delegation in Montenegro, each with a Relief Delegate and experienced Field Officer, whose daily task it to support the YRC branches, while monitoring the distributions of relief items. Planning is currently underway for the establishment of a further Federation Field Office, to be based in northern Kosovo, which will not only focus on relief but also institutional development.

Towards the end of 1999, a Red Cross Joint Task Force was also established, consisting of senior operational staff in the YRC Humanitarian Bureau, the Federation and ICRC. Members of the Task Force meet at least once a week to ensure that humanitarian assistance is co-ordinated and that quick solutions are found to overcome any highlighted problems.

The Federation has placed a priority on supporting and strengthening the YRC distribution system to enable smooth delivery and distribution of relief items as this system is the main vehicle for humanitarian assistance, with its extensive network shared by the majority of agencies operating in the region.

Between January and May 2000, the YRC handled over 73,000 metric tonnes of relief items through its delivery and distribution system, while assisting just under one million beneficiaries (representing some 1/10 of the population, excluding Kosovo). Items were channelled from the Central, Regional and Municipal levels consisting of 181 branches and over 500 distribution points in Serbia proper and Montenegro.

Relief to Refugee Beneficiaries

The FR Yugoslavia hosts the highest number of refugees and IDPs in Europe, with 497,700 refugees alone registered in June. They have little means of supporting themselves and find it difficult to integrate into society. Despite positive developments in Croatia, to date only a small proportion have managed to return to their homes in either Croatia or Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many still live in Collective Centres or with friends or relatives in often desperate conditions, with the most vulnerable being reliant on humanitarian aid. Over the past eight years, the YRC supported by the Federation has been one of the few consistent providers of humanitarian assistance for this largely forgotten sector of society.

According to the recent Vulnerability Assessment, only 54% of refugees could find any type of job in the last year. Ninety-five percent of refugees stated that their income was not sufficient to cover their basic needs. However, 84% also mentioned that they had received items from the Red Cross over the last three months. One third stated that they suffer from chronic diseases, with another one third stating that they suffer from some type of disease. Despite this, refugees' most pressing priority is to find improved accommodation, followed by increasing their social status, which is associated with job hunting. They also focussed on the need for high nutritional food, improved health care and resources to purchase medicines.

Based on the above mentioned Vulnerability Assessment and on the 2000 WFP/UNHCR Joint Food Needs Assessment Mission findings, the Federations has revised its relief programmes for the remainder of 2000.

Revision

- Basic Food Programme distributions for 312,100 refugees (fully funded)
- Essential Hygiene Parcel Programme for 242,600 refugees (funded until the 4th quarter)
- Baby Parcel Programme for 8,100 refugee mothers with new born babies (fully funded)
- Winterisation Programme details to be announced on completion of Needs Assessment.

Basic Food Programme

The ongoing ECHO-funded Basic Food Programme of Cooking Oil, White Beans and Sugar is aimed at 125,000 most vulnerable refugees, complementing the WFP items distributed in the overall basic food assistance programme. A total of 1,000 metric tonnes of each of the three commodities came into the FR Yugoslavia. As of 31 May, 97% of Oil, 93% of Sugar and 94% of the Beans were distributed at the beneficiary level, in 181 YRC branches, with this programme scheduled to finish in July 2000.

Supplementary Food Programme

The jointly funded and ongoing ECHO and Swedish Red Cross Supplementary Food Programme of Canned Meat, Dried Yeast and Milk Powder is aimed at 350,000 vulnerable refugees. A total of 1,188 metric tonnes of Canned Meat, 166 metric tonnes of Dried Yeast and 1,080 metric tonnes of Milk Powder have been coming in, with the former two items procured in the country. Between 1 January and 31 May 2000, 80% of Canned Meat, 61% of the Milk Powder and 24% of the Yeast were distributed directly to beneficiaries.

Planned Food Programmes for the second half of 2000

During the second half of 2000, the above two mentioned food programmes will be replaced with a Basic Food Programme aimed at a higher number of refugees. The YRC, supported by the Federation, will provide 312,100 refugee beneficiaries with Basic Food items, contributing towards the WFP overall Food Basket. The Delegation is currently procuring 4,500 metric tonnes of Wheat Flour, 406 metric tonnes of White Beans, 116 metric litres of Oil and 30 metric tonnes of Sugar, aimed at the most vulnerable refugees, with deliveries expected to commence in August, 2000.

This programme has been fully funded by ECHO, covering the remainder of the Federation 2000 food funding needs.

Essential Hygiene Parcels

The ongoing and jointly funded-ECHO, Swedish and German Red Cross Hygiene Parcel Programme is aimed at 225,500 most vulnerable refugees. Under this programme, beneficiaries are entitled to one hygiene parcel every three months. A total of 273,115 parcels were directly distributed between 1 January and 31 May 2000.

Ten Belgrade branches, however, which were involved in distributing hygiene parcels to Social Cases/IDPs rather than refugees in late 1999, were not involved in the distribution of these items during this period. Consequently, an external audit is now being conducted in order to establish the extend of distribution to unauthorised beneficiaries and related issues. The audit is expected to be concluded in August.

The findings from the recent YRC Branch-Beneficiary Questionnaire conclude that beneficiaries, fitting the specified criteria, have increased during the course of the year by some 20,000. As such, the YRC, supported by the Federation, now aims at reaching 242,600 refugees, providing them with one Hygiene Parcel every three months.

In order to implement the whole of the 2000 Hygiene Parcel Programme, including the additional beneficiaries identified by the YRC, funding for 242,600 extra Hygiene Parcels is required for the 4th quarter of 2000. Hopefully, ECHO will fund 207,200 parcels, thus the outstanding needs are reduced to 35,600 Hygiene Parcels. The Federation urges National Society donors to come forward to enable this programme to continue until the end of the year.

Baby Parcels and Baths Programme

The German Red Cross funded 2000 Baby Parcel Programme, aimed at 8,100 vulnerable refugee mothers with babies one year old or under. The parcels have all been dispatched to the Regional levels, with deliveries to the Municipal level started. At the end of May, 14% of the total 2000 consignment

was distributed directly to beneficiaries. All Baby Parcel needs have been met by the German Red Cross for the 2000 Appeal.

Elderly refugee Underclothes Programme

The jointly funded ECHO, Norwegian and German Red Cross Underclothes Programme is designed to provide thermal underwear for refugees of 65 years or older, living in private accommodation with no means of support. In total, 61,173 sets arrived in FR Yugoslavia. As of the end of May 2000, 77% of the Underclothes had been directly distributed to elderly refugee beneficiaries. According to the feedback from the field, the Underwear Sets have been in exceptionally high demand.

Refugee Childrens Jackets and Shoes Programme

The British Red Cross funded jackets and shoes programme, aimed at vulnerable child refugees of up to 14 years old, has proved to be very popular, with the child refugee beneficiaries finding the quality of items good. By the end of May, 74% of shoes and 73% of jackets were directly distributed to child beneficiaries. All Jacket and Shoe needs for child beneficiaries have been met for the 2000 programme by the British Red Cross.

2000/2001 New Winterisation programmes for vulnerable refugees

The Federation Field Offices, in conjunction with the YRC branches, are currently running a Needs Assessment process to determine the exact 2000/2001 winter item priorities and the most vulnerable target group. Based on these findings, and in close co-operation with the UNHRC and other humanitarian organisations, the Federation will tailor the new Winterisation Programme towards specific needs. Details regarding this programme are scheduled to be announced during the coming month.

YRC\Federation relief distributed directed to refugees from 1 January to 31 May 2000

Items & Monthly Ration	No. of Beneficiaries	Belgrade	Kragujevac	Kraljevo	Nis	Novi Sad	Podgorica	Total distribution
Oil 1L/mth	125,005	150,360	43,987	21,476	35,896	56,676	8,426	316,821
Sugar 1kg/mth	125,005	117,080	45,403	24,138	41,847	69,575	45,452	343,495
Beans 1 kg/mth	125,005	115,945	48,732	23,102	41,051	61,406	5,816	296,052
Yeast (1pack) 77gr/mth	350,000	236,835	15,989	48,689	539	190,198	0	492,250
Milk(1pack) 500gr/mth	350,000	479,117	96,621	90,297	51,729	507,191	66,587	1,291,542
Meat(1can) 550gr/mth	350,000	679,943	102,300	101,765	72,155	671,947	63,510	1,691,620
Hygiene Parcel 1HP/3mth	225,500	88,222	28,870	28,163	20,384	89,512	17,964	273,115
Underwear 1/winter	55,369	20,191	3,002	1,681	537	19,921	1,739	47,071

1/winter								
Shoes 1/winter	82,000	20,439	4,394	3,355	1,772	27,689	3,071	60,720
Baby Parcel 1/year	8,099	592	113	106	44	0	242	1,097

Floods in Vojvodina

During the reporting period the YRC supported by the Federation also responding to the Vojvodina floods, with Secanj Municipality being particularly badly affected. Based on the assessment by the Novi Sad Field Office, the Federation supported three of the worst affected villages in the area with the following items: 300 blankets; 230 Hygiene Parcels; 50 Baby Parcels; 100 Cooking Sets and 1000 cans of Meat. These items were shared between 758 of the most vulnerable victims.

Montenegro Relief

Difficulties encountered due to the internal trade blockade at the beginning of the year in delivering items between Serbia and Montenegro were overcome in April. Positive diplomatic discussions resulted in the first week of April in resumption and regular passage of relief items coming from Belgrade.

In the first six months of the year, the Montenegrin Sub-delegation has co-ordinated and effectively established an inter-agency Joint Monitoring System, whereby the Federation, ICRC, UNHCR, WFP, Catholic Relief Service and Mercy Corps International jointly monitor bulk food distributions in the Montenegrin Red Cross (MRC) branches and distribution points. This has reduced the number of agencies visiting each branch and increased the efficiency and transparency, with the Federation overseeing of all 21 MRC branches.

A Beneficiary End User Monitoring Questionnaire was produced by the bulk food providers. Each of the six major participating agencies randomly choose beneficiaries, conducting face-to-face interviews, filling in data about household, accommodation, home economy and food rations. Between March and May, 267 collected questionnaires were analysed, with a final report produced and submitted by the Federation to different agencies, included the MRC. The transparent data reflects the efficient relief distribution carried out by the MRC with no obstacles for the Monitoring Teams in accessing beneficiaries. In addition, the Montenegrin Sub-delegation has implemented a pilot Database Programme in Herceg Novi MRC branch. The database records all beneficiary and distribution details and improves efficiency. Presently, the Federation examines options to expand the pilot programme into other branches.

The Montenegrin Red Cross has found the above mentioned Federation initiatives extremely helpful, furthering their beneficiary and donor accountability, as well as the overall branch efficiency. Discussions are currently taking place regarding the Federation introducing a similar system, tailored towards the situation in Serbia.

Non-relief Programmes •

Social Welfare Programme (SWP)

This well established programme, currently funded by the Swedish Red Cross, continues to expand in order to meet the needs of vulnerable people and strengthen the YRC capacity to cope with disasters, by organising a large network of trained professionals, volunteers and co-workers. It also strengthens vulnerable persons' own coping mechanism and preserves their mental health through Help Lines, community-based Youth, Elderly and Family Clubs, SWP Mobile Teams, Libraries and Cinemas. Psychological support is also given to Red Cross staff and volunteers in order to reinforce their own coping mechanisms.

The Social Welfare Programme has far exceeded its planned activities during the first half of 2000 in Serbia and Montenegro. Its annual objective was to make 500,000 beneficiary contacts, and by half way through the year, a staggering 477,717 contacts had already been made. The SWP is also rapidly achieving its two year objective, to expand the SWP network of co-workers and volunteers to all YRC branches by the end of 2001. By the end of June 2000, the network was established in 135 branches, i.e. reaching 75% of the 24 month target, in just six months. Furthermore, all fully equipped 15 SWP Mobile Teams will be operational in July, nine of which include mobile libraries and cinemas, enabling the SWP to reach remote areas, providing assistance to the largely neglected isolated population, including refugees, IDPs, social cases, people living in collective centres, homes, the elderly, children and youth. A total of 80 SWP Youth, Elderly and Family Clubs are now operational, providing vital local psychological and occupational assistance to people in each of 80 communities.

While donor support from the Swedish Red Cross has enabled the above activities to be run for the first half of 2000, further donations will be required to continue activities in the FR Yugoslavia, particularly for the operation in Montenegro. In Montenegro, specific camps for the elderly and children are held with the Montenegro SWP being under-funded. In June, a week long camp was held in Montenegro for 100 elderly refugees living in Collective Centres. Some of the participants have lived in overcrowded dilapidated centres for years, now. Their family members are not with them - while they lack privacy in the centres, they feel alone and dislocated. Years of living in centres has resulted in the erosion of these peoples' dignity, with many of the occupants being depressed. The level of appreciation and gratitude shown by the largely neglected beneficiaries attending the camp, was extremely high. Similarly, Rest and Recuperation Camps are currently being held in Montenegro for 250 of the most vulnerable children living in collective centres, who are often also alone. Some children who have already benefited from this programme, have claimed that their 10 day stay at the House of Solidarity has been the happiest period in the lives. This latter programme is one of the additional projects and it is very much hoped that donors will come forward. The lack of donor support is currently the major constraint in implementing programmes in especially Montenegro, but also in Serbia.

CABAC Danish Red Cross Programme

Preparations were made for the Danish Red Cross/Federation Delegated Project, Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CABAC), which gained approval from the Ministry of Education. This project will be based in the very poor Kraljevo region, providing psychological support and school meals for children, with a Danish Red Cross CABAC Regional and Programme delegate arriving in July, to fine-tune the planning process, and the implementation expected to commence in September.

Kosovo Psycho-Social Programme

The Kosovo Psycho-Social Programme (PSP) aims at strengthening individual, family and community development by reducing the likelihood of psychological disorders through the provision of traumatic stress interventions, psychological support and therapeutic social activities. The programme will also be used as a vehicle to develop the Local Red Cross (LRC), with PSP Centres and Mobile Outreach Teams (MOTs) integrated into the branch structures.

The PSP programme is well supported by the American, Swedish, Belgian and Japanese Red Cross Societies, running over 13,000 sessions, for just under 6,000 beneficiaries between 1 January and 30 June 2000. A steady increase in beneficiaries is noted as the PSP Centres and MOTs become more established. With the onset of spring and the approach of the first anniversary of the Kosovo Crisis, a fairly dramatic increase in needs was seen by the teams, specially due to the ground de-thawing and further investigations into mass graves.

Special sessions in each of the five PSP Centres are run in accordance with the local needs. Children are a major focus, specially those four to seven years old. Interactive team building games, arts and crafts are included into these sessions in the Peje/Pec PSP Centre, where mothers also attend with the youngest children. Special Womens' support groups are run, including widows classes for those who

not only lost their husbands but also their homes and are now raising children without an income. Finally, the PSP special sessions for an increasing number of interested ex-detainees have proven particularly valuable, with many of the beneficiaries feeling depressed, helpless and desperate. In the Glogovac/Gllgogvc area alone, where the PSP runs a Centre and MOT, 65 ex-detainees regularly participate in support groups and individual sessions, with family visits also being made by the PSP MOTs.

Five PSP Centres and MOTs in Kosovo: January to June 2000 Beneficiary Data

PSP	Glogovac/ Gllgogvc	Gjakove/ Djakovica	Peja/Pec	Podujevo/ Podujeve	Pristina/ Prishtine	Other regions	TOTAL
Sessions:	2,116	3,446	3,250	1,988	2,042	283	13,125
Beneficiaries:	1,095	1,949	1,058	763	780	283	5,928

The PSP has achieved its immediate objectives, having fully established five PSP Centres and MOTs by the end of February 2000. During the second half of the year, the PSP aims at expanding the programme to three extra areas in Kosovo, with assessments currently taking place, to include Serbian majority areas. Fortunately, this valuable programme has not encountered any major constraints during the first half of 2000, and enjoys donor support, unlike its sister Institutional Development programme in Kosovo, which has encountered major funding problems.

Health Education/Preventative Health and Voluntary Blood Donation Programme

This programme supports the YRC Health Education and Preventative Health Programme, by training Red Cross volunteers and staff involved in running Red Cross health actions, enabling them to disseminate their newly learnt skills, ultimately targeting children and youth. Due to the Balkan Crisis and the ongoing relief effort, the 1999 programme in Serbia and Montenegro, was not fully implemented until April, 2000. This resulted in a smaller number of 2000 projects implemented in the first half of the year. However, support for publications was extended to the YRC, for World Health Day, which focussed on Blood Donation. This day was also used to promote the YRC *Line of Life* School, including the presentation of positive 1999 statistics. Two regional voluntary blood donation workshops were also held. In addition, two *Dirty Hands* seminars, aimed at improving child hand-hygiene, were successfully organised, with a further six planned for the remainder of 2000.

However, the Federation focussed its main efforts on revitalising the YRC overall Health Strategy, resulting in the adoption of a realistic planning approach corresponding to current capacities of the YRC. This should ultimately provide for a more co-ordinated operational approach, encompassing the Central, Regional and Municipal Red Cross levels. The Federation has supported the YRC Voluntary Blood Donation Programme for three years now, with 2000 marking the final year. In the future, this programme will be independently implemented, without technical and financial Federation support.

The revised Health Strategy for 2000/2001 now includes the following activities: nation-wide YRC Aids campaign, following on from the very dynamic 1999 campaign, support for four 2000 awareness campaigns (respiratory Diseases, Race for Happy Childhood, Safety in Traffic, Day Against AIDS), and eight regional and local health actions. Life-Saving advanced training and further Voluntary Blood Donation seminars will also be held, with support given to the associated promotional materials.

In Montenegro, certain aspects of the overall programme have being tailored to particular local needs. Campaigns include the Prevention of Drug Addiction and Communicable Diseases, Voluntary Blood Donation and First Aid, targeting a total of 20,000 people. To date, 6,000 people have been trained and 50% of the Voluntary Blood Donation campaign completed. The revised budget reflects a reduction in the number of health seminars planned for 2000 in Montenegro, five seminars will now be run (rather than ten), with one to date completed. However, the number of Health Camps, focussing on First Aid,

Life-Saving and Mountain Rescue, have been increased from five to seven, reflecting the popularity of the First Aid Camps, whereby three Camps were held in preparation for the YRC Republican and Federal First Aid Competitions.

The Health Education/Preventative Health and Voluntary Blood Donation Programme in Serbia and Montenegro severely lacks funds. The Federation would like to particularly emphasise the importance of the Health Programme, which, if the critical funding situation does not improve, will have to cancel its various aspects.

Home Care Programme

This project is designed to initiate full revival of the YRC Home Care Programme, enabling it to assist the most vulnerable elderly. It was initiated due to the grass-roots' immense needs identified by the YRC branches, with full support from the YRC headquarters and the Federation.

While the Home Care programme is designed to be nation-wide, Vojvodina has been selected to run the pilot project, having already carried out a micro-level assessment in 10 cities in the region, which included the identification of 500 beneficiaries. In the July to December period, further regional assessments will be carried out, leading to the implementation of this programme. In Vojvodina, the training of Home Care instructors and volunteers will commence in July as planned.

Over the next 18 months, this programme will provide Home Care services to approximately 30,000 of the most vulnerable elderly, with the YRC/Federation establishing, equipping and training Home Care Mobile Teams. In total, 200 Home Care instructors and 1,200 volunteers will be fully trained in Home Care skills. The Teams will provide psycho-social and social welfare support to the elderly beneficiaries, and other support services specific to individual needs, such as cleaning, cooking, shopping, basic medical care and hygiene, while also facilitating communication with health and social services. The provision of hygiene, food, health and other essential items for the most vulnerable beneficiaries will be also provided.

While the programme has attracted donor attention, no firm pledges has been received lately. The funding is needed to ensure the existence of the increasingly vulnerable elderly population group in the FR Yugoslavia by this revived traditional Red Cross activity.

Disaster Preparedness Programme (DPP)

The FR Yugoslavia is prone to natural and man-made disasters, having witnessed countless earthquakes (including the 1979 earthquake in Montenegro, killing 101 people), regular floods and droughts. The year 1999/2000 was no exception, with the Kosovo Crisis and bombardments resulting in gross environmental destruction. The region has also been effected by massive flooding in Vojvodina, and is now experiencing a drought. It is estimated that 30% of 2000 wheat crop will be destroyed.

While the YRC branches have always reacted to local disasters, the National Society has never implemented a nation-wide formal DP programme. The fact that this programme has been established, while the YRC is heavily focused on its massive relief effort, is a success in itself, demonstrating the motivation and commitment of the YRC headquarters and branches.

The YRC Executive Board adopted the Concept for DPP, a five-day assessment was carried out in March by the German Red Cross, further assessments, specifically focused on the availability of human and other resources were carried out in 25 YRC branches, a YRC DP Unit was established under the Institutional Development Department, and a DP Warehouse was rented for a six month period. However, the largest implementation achievement involved the procurement and delivery of DP items for a total of 84 out of the planned 578 Polyvalent Field Teams (PFT) i.e. Disaster Response Units and items for 25 PFT Collective Equipment Modules (branches), with the ultimate plan of having Collective Equipment Modules in all Municipal branches. This was a large and complex logistical

operation, which involved the transfer of additional items from the Federation's leftover stocks in Albania and Macedonia and from the ICRC.

The first phase of this six month programme was funded by the Swedish Red Cross/SIDA, with further support from the Danish Red Cross and interest noted from the German Red Cross. If the latter pledge is confirmed, this programme is fully-funded for the remainder of 2000.

the DPP will further focus on training activities, which will include the standardisation of Training Modules, the production of Training Manuals, the Training of Trainers and PTF members, with the distribution of DP equipment occurring simultaneously. Contracts with government institutions involved in DPP will also be encouraged and draft YRC/Government Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) presented.

Youth Development Programme

The YRC Youth Development Programme aims at strengthening the Youth Department in order to make it one of the National Society's priority programmes. It envisages the creation of a Youth Strategy, recruitment policy and development of core youth programme activities. In the first half of 2000, the Regional Delegation in Budapest organised a preparatory meeting for the planned Self-Assessment Process, with the YRC Executive Board approving the Plan of Action in June. Planning, including the revision of the Youth Summer Schools and Camps was also carried out with branch level youth being fairly active.

However, the same level of achievement was not reached in other areas during the first half of 2000, including the implementation of the Youth Development component of the programme, with further support being required from the Regional Delegation in Budapest and the YRC Youth Department, with the latter encountering human resource difficulties. It is hoped that these problems will be overcome during the latter half of 2000, with the Self-Assessment Process planned to be resumed in the autumn period and completed by the end of the year.

The Youth summer activities including the Red Cross Summer School and Camps are scheduled but the latter currently lacks a donor. The revised Youth Summer Schools Projects in Sutomore and Baosici will involve previously trained YRC Youth Leaders as facilitators at these popular Montenegrin Summer Schools, with the aim to educate 600 Youth Members who will disseminate their knowledge in their respective regions. However, while the Youth Programme has attracted donor interest from PNSs, (German and Swedish Red Cross) no pledges have been confirmed to date.

Institutional Development and Implementation of Plan of Action

This programme aims at supporting the YRC in implementing an Institutional Development Plan of Action (PoA), with the ultimate challenge of adapting the structures of the National Society in order to strengthen its capacity to respond to beneficiary needs. Support will be provided through training, technical expertise and material inputs particularly in the areas identified by the ID self-analysis conducted by the YRC in 1997/8. The PoA focuses on improving governance, fundraising, public relations, management structures, human resources, information/reporting systems and branch strengthening.

Due to the Kosovo Crisis last year, several of the 1999 projects were delayed. However, progress has been made in the first half of 2000. Various ID workshops were planned for 2000 but with the current relief effort and a complex decision-making process within the YRC and lack of human resources, the implementation is very slow. However, the computerisation of the YRC, funded by the British and Swedish Red Cross Societies, was carried out with a total of 172 computers, 102 faxes and 30 photocopiers and basic computer training for staff. Further fine-tuning of the PoA was achieved and approved by the YRC Executive Board, following the *ID/RD In Emergencies Workshop* as well as a successful pilot YRC Management Workshop which was well received by all participants.

Major achievements were gained under the Swedish Red Cross funded Branch Strengthening Construction Project, which resulted in eleven YRC branches having new offices. This is an important programme, with over 50% of YRC branches having inadequate offices/warehouses, which hampers their ability to assist the most vulnerable. Eight YRC branches were provided with prefabricated offices, two with construction materials and one with funds for a new office/warehouse.

During the latter half of 2000, focus will be placed on implementing various ID workshops. Planned workshops include: Core and Advanced YRC Management Training, English Language Training, Advanced Computer Literacy Training and the internal computer network of the YRC.

This programme has fortunately received good donor support from the British and Swedish Red Cross Societies. The current funding status is dependent on the confirmation of a German Red Cross donation by which the remainder of the 2000 would be covered.

Kosovo Institutional Development Programme

The long-term aim of this programme is to promote a strong and sustainable Red Cross structure within the political realities of Kosovo. The programme aims at strengthening the Red Cross operational capacity which will enable the local Red Cross to provide humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people. The local Red Cross currently consists of the officially recognised Kosovo and Metohija Red Cross (KMRC) headquarters, with six Municipal Red Cross branches and the *Red Cross of Kosova (RCKA)* headquarters, with 26 Municipal Red Cross branches. The major 2000/2001 objectives include providing the following for the local Red Cross branches: equipment, financial support and dissemination/specific training courses and promotion of fundraising and traditional Red Cross activities, internal Red Cross and external NGO contacts, including a dialogue between the two Red Cross structures in Kosovo.

Major achievements have been made with this programme during the latter months of 1999 and the first half of 2000. Nineteen vehicles have been donated to the local Red Cross and all municipal branches in Kosovo have been provided with basic office furniture. Many of them also received office equipment including 30 computers, 30 printers and 24 photocopying machines. In total, 144 local Red Cross employees in the branches/headquarters have received monthly salary support, with further support allocated to cover core branch and activity costs. Several branches capitalised on the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day fundraising opportunities and income generating proposals are being prepared. Twenty three of the 26 Red Cross of Kosova branches participated in dissemination seminars, two of which have subsequently run their own dissemination sessions.

Contacts with PNSs have been good. Sixteen local Red Cross branches, supported by the America and Swiss Red Cross Societies, will be involved in the initial phase of establishing Red Cross First Aid and Community Based Health Care (Mother and Child) programmes, respectively. Two local Red Cross branches organised school children summer excursions with the Danish Red Cross support while the German and Belgium Red Cross Societies have provided support to the local Red Cross branches operating in their PNS geographical area of activity. Upon completion of the Federation training, local Red Cross branches will play an important role in the implementation of the new Social Welfare System in Kosovo.

Sporadic discussions between the leadership of the KMRC and the RCKA occurred in the autumn of last year, however little direct contact has been made since that time. This has delayed progress towards a sustainable Red Cross solution in Kosovo, with the Federation very much hoping that dialogue will be resumed shortly, focussing on the co-ordination of the pressing operational needs in the province.

While two Federation and local Red Cross assessments originally led to the Kosovo Branch Support Project, a series of local Red Cross Self-assessment Workshops were implemented with the Federation support between March and June 2000. These workshops involved around 140 participants from

the local Red Cross Governing Boards to branch volunteers. The assessment resulted in the local Red Cross defining eight objectives/key areas, including improving the local Red Cross operational capacity and organisational structures. These objectives and activities form the basis of the Kosovo ID Plan of Action (PoA).

It should be noted that the local Red Cross has demonstrated its enthusiasm and willingness to strengthen its structures. It has become clear, however, that it does not have human resources and overall capacities to implement changes at the originally anticipated pace. The local Red Cross and the Federation have, therefore, rescheduled some of the planned activities, prioritising them accordingly. The second half of 2000 will focus on the PoA, capacity building and direct financial support to the local Red Cross while the implementation of the remaining elements will be included in the original Branch Support Project.

The Federation would like to emphasise the importance of the successful implementation of the Kosovo Institutional Development Programme. To date, one of the major constraints has been the lack of funds. Greater donor interest in the second half of 2000 will facilitate the development of a strong and sustainable Red Cross structure in Kosovo.

Income Generating Projects

The Income Generating Projects (IGPs) aim at generating funds by assisting local Red Cross branches to establish small-scale businesses, which will enable them to increase their independence, provide employment opportunities for refugees, IDPs and social cases and fund traditional Red Cross activities. To date, 111 branch IGPs have been implemented, with a diversity of income generating activities including bakeries, yoghurt production, milk collection, printing and photocopying shops, toilet paper production and paper napkin production.

Twelve IGPs identified for funding in 1999, were implemented, an IGP Directory was produced and an initial IGPs evaluation was carried out. The latter two projects should assist other branches interested in establishing their own IGPs. One of the 2000 objectives was to revise the General IGPs Agreement between the YRC and the Federation. The Agreement was revised in February but a new Agreement on IGPs was prepared to be annexed to the revised operational Memorandum of Understanding between the YRC and the Federation. The signing of the MoU is, however, currently on hold. This delay keeps 19 newly selected IGPs also on hold. In the meantime, another 40 IGPs have been identified. The plan is to implement 59 IGPs during the next six months with the revised budget. The plans include a marketing project designed for branches IGPs and dissemination of the revised IGPs Agreement. The donor support is lacking however, although the IGPs implemented in the 1998/1999 have proved the viability of the IGP concept.

Promotion of Humanitarian Values and Public Awareness Programme

This project, to be implemented over a two year period (2000-2001), continues to support the Yugoslav Red Cross in its efforts of promoting humanitarian values, tolerance, reconciliation, non-violence and Red Cross principles throughout the FR Yugoslavia.

The integration of refugees and IDPs in a society hardened by years of conflict and socio-economic asperity, proves to be a very difficult process. This vulnerable sector of society is often ignored by the rest of the population, having to deal with ethnic and inter-ethnic intolerance as a result of ignorance. The need of raising public awareness about the miserable situation of refugees, IDPs and social cases as well as about humanitarian values, is considered of paramount importance by the YRC. Lateral to every programme, the YRC/Federation information teams find ways of promoting humanitarian values and donor image among beneficiaries and the general public. According to a recent YRC/ICRC/Federation Vulnerability Assessment, beneficiaries spontaneously indicated ECHO as one of their first three-four major donors. In the country's volatile environment, support to this programme is essential in order to present the humanitarian community as a part of the solution to peoples' problems.

The objectives set up for the first half of 2000 were accomplished. The Plan of Action for communications was developed and its implementation began. The National Society designed and installed its web-site <<<http://jck.org.yu>>> in both Serbian and English. Various national public awareness campaigns marking the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day and the World Health Day, in co-operation with WHO, were successfully implemented.

However, as no pledges have been received to date, the planned activities, including training in communications and reporting, could be jeopardised as this programme depends solely on donors commitment.

Repatriation/Reintegration Support Programme

This programme has been radically reviewed over the past three months to reflect the overall positive political change in Croatia, resulting in new and favourable terms for refugee return to Croatia. The number of applications rose in the first six months of 2000 and included spontaneous return and/or the *Go and See* visits. Accordingly, the UNCHR and the Yugoslav Government recently initiated a media campaign to promote repatriation to Croatia.

An intensive 10-day assessment mission was undertaken by the Federation in Croatia at the beginning of May. The Teams' initial findings contributed towards the expansion of the Repatriation/Reintegration Support Programme. In June, the Federation Head of Delegation in the FR Yugoslavia and the Secretaries General of the Croatian and Yugoslav Red Cross Societies held a very positive and somewhat unprecedented meeting in Zagreb, to discuss the revised programme and create further co-operation between the two sister National Societies.

During the first half of 2000, continued support has been provided, through the Swedish Red Cross, for the repatriation/integration publications, created by refugee self-help groups, including *Response, Return, Vrela* and *Sunflower*. Ten thousand booklets entitled *How to Preserve Your Mental Health*, and 20,000 *Refugee Guidebooks* for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia were distributed by the YRC network, UNHRC and Swiss Disaster Relief (SDR) Offices.

While the Federation will continue to advocate for voluntary and gradual repatriation and reintegration based on well-informed decision-making by individual refugees, through provision of pre-departure information, emphasis has been placed on the provision of relief items. Six months worth of relief supplies will be provided to returnees, including food and hygiene parcels and other non-food items for up to 65,000 beneficiaries. The contingency plans for non-food items are prepared by the Croatian Red Cross which will be the lead partner in this overall Federation/Yugoslav Red Cross/Croatian Red Cross programme. Ultimately, this programme should become sub-regional, integrating the Federation Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Red Cross structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina into the overall Repatriation/Reintegration programme. Further emphasis will be put on closer co-operation between all partner organisations to the Red Cross, such as the UNHCR.

The Federation has been consistently providing refugees with relief and other humanitarian assistance since 1992 and plans to continue supporting returnees through the local Red Cross branches at their destination. This radically revised programme needs urgent funding in order to meet the changing needs of returnees. While several National Societies have expressed an interest in funding this programme, no firm pledges have been received to date.

Outstanding Needs

Over the past six months, the growing humanitarian needs in the FR Yugoslavia have not been matched with donor interest. International isolation, sanctions, propaganda and the recent politicisation of humanitarian assistance in the FR Yugoslavia are perhaps largely to blame for the lack of interest. Given the environment, continued support from ECHO and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, has been especially appreciated by the YRC and the Federation. The Appeal for the year

2000 is now 67.6% covered. However, a further amount of CHF 14,466,177 is needed to enable all programmes to be implemented up to the end of the year.

In the first half of the year, the activities have been carried out largely with the funds carried over from 1999. However, if the low level of donor support continues, especially for non-relief activities, the programmes will encounter critical funding situation which might lead to cancellation of several of them.

The following seven new and replacement delegates are needed: Disaster Preparedness - Belgrade; Logistics Co-ordinator - Belgrade; Youth - Belgrade; Youth - Kosovo; Psycho-Social Programme - Kosovo; Finance - Kosovo; Sub-Regional Repatriation - Zagreb.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The Federation actively participated in regular interagency co-ordination, sector, and regional co-ordination meetings. A full range of national and international media contacts were maintained, including press, radio and TV journalists with a continued focus on raising the profile of the Yugoslav Red Cross and the Federation in support of beneficiaries. See Annex 2 for details on the revised budget.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

In an attempt to alleviate some of the suffering of the vulnerable people, the YRC not only provided relief items to some one million beneficiaries per month but also ran support and traditional Red Cross activities. It is therefore not surprising that the National Society lacked the extra capacity to implement some of the non-essential Federation funding projects over the first half of the 2000 period. This situation, coupled with a lack of donor support, has resulted in the slow implementation of several of the planned non-relief activities. However, despite the aftershocks of the Kosovo Crisis, the first half of 2000 was marked by many Federation\YRC achievements. Federation-funded relief efforts have been very successful, with additional emergency assistance being given to flood victims. The Federation's field support and monitoring system was further strengthened, with the deployment of nine relief delegates placed over the region, while also being further enhanced by the Montenegrin Sub-delegations' launch of the Joint Monitoring initiative.

Over the six month period, the SWP made a staggering half million beneficiary contacts, introducing 15 Mobile Teams and 80 Clubs into the SWP network, with the Kosovo PSP programme firmly establishing five PSP Centres and Mobile Outreach Teams and running over 13,000 beneficiary sessions. Similarly, the Kosovo ID Programme moved ahead in leaps and bounds, providing local Red Cross offices with vehicles, furniture, equipment, salaries and core running cost support while also holding extensive training sessions. However, the largest success can be seen in the establishment of a ID PoA. Twelve IGPs branch initiatives were also implemented in FRY, while 11 branches were provided with new offices. The first ever formal DP programme was inaugurated, with relief items incoming for 84 DP teams and 25 branch collective stocks. With the Federation's support, the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day as well as the World Health Day activities were run all over the region. An extensive Vulnerability Assessment was conducted, highlighting new needs in preparation of two new programmes i.e. Repatriation and Home Care.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Bjorn Eder
Director
Europe Department

This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>