

# **FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

*28 August 2000*

*appeal no. 01.38/2000  
situation report no. 1 - Budget Revision  
period covered: January - June 2000*

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*A midyear review of programmes and priorities in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has led to a budget revision for the year. Details are attached in Annex 1.*

*Around 20,000 refugees remaining in the country and an increasing number of social cases made it incumbent upon the RC of FYROM to continue a full scale relief operation with distributions of food and hygiene parcels. At the same time, the Participating National Societies have continued their support to the capacity building process of the Operating National Society.*

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## ***The context***

The International Federation re-established its presence in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) in mid-1998. The country has been struggling economically for the last ten years i.e. since its withdrawal from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The bleak economic and social situation was further burdened by the influx of over 350,000 refugees from nearby Kosovo in January-June 1999. At the end of 1999, an estimated 20,000 refugees remained in the country.

## *Latest events*

During the first six months of 2000, the political situation in FYROM remained comparatively stable. The Federation Delegation in FYROM monitored closely all developments in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia including Kosovo, and has been on low alert. The Federation worked closely with the Red Cross of FYROM, ICRC, UNHCR and WFP concerning the possibility of renewed population movements.

Massive protests took place in FYROM on 29 February, when some 10-15,000 workers took to the streets to express their dissatisfaction with the current leadership, high unemployment rate and low and irregular salaries.

In March, the FYROM Government took a decision to extend the refugee status for Kosovo refugees for another three months, i.e. until 28 June.

The issue of distributions by humanitarian aid agencies of flour, leading to the closing down of local mills, attracted public attention. Three or four articles on the "humanitarian flour" were published during the month of March both in government and independent dailies. As described, the flour distributed to social cases represents an irregular competition as it often ends up on open markets and is sold for half the price. A WFP and FAO analysis of the situation prepared in cooperation with the FYROM Ministry of Agriculture has revealed, however, that while the import of wheat flour for humanitarian purposes has affected the millers, the overall price of the wheat flour has only dropped one dinar per kg and not 5 to 10 dinars as the millers assert. The problem involves not only beneficiaries selling aid to obtain money for other uses, like fresh food and rent, but smuggling of this product into the country from Kosovo and other neighbouring countries.

As of 1 April, Value Added Tax (VAT) has been introduced as a part of the reforms in the economic field. Local press and media reported thoroughly on this subject. Excessive procurement as a money saving method was evident in all trade-sections. At the same time, the measures taken by the previous government two years ago, have already cut the social support to the vulnerable population by 30%. This issue, along with the introduction of the VAT, has increased the vulnerability of many families at the bottom of the social ladder.

On 18 May, opposition parties had a joint rally at the main square in Skopje and asked for the resignation of the current government leadership, dissolution of Parliament and early parliamentary elections. The rally was peaceful, with many participants coming from other places in the country. The opposition parties continue with open meetings announcing more rallying.

In June, shooting was reported on several occasions at the northern border of FYROM with the Yugoslav province of Kosovo. On 5 June, two FYROM frontier guards were injured by sniper fire coming from the Kosovo territory. These incidents resulted in additional security measures and increased the FYROM military presence. The reported reason for shootings are illegal border crossings.

## *Red Cross/Red Crescent action*

**Relief •**

The January and February distribution of basic food items and hygiene articles supported 9,570 refugees in private accommodation and 1,980 host families. In addition, 72,000 families registered as social cases received food and hygiene parcels. The Danish Red Cross used clothing was distributed to local Red Cross branches. The winterisation programme, financed by the American Red Cross, covered the needs of refugees by providing them with a winter-coat and a pair of winter boots. The remaining balance was distributed to local population with outstanding needs.

The March and April distributions to refugees took place during the month of March with a double food and hygiene parcel distribution. The social cases received the same double food ration and a single bi-monthly hygiene parcel. In addition to this regular distribution, 12,000 small food parcels received from the French Red Cross via Kosovo were given to a grey area of beneficiaries who still had jobs but were not being paid by their companies. The fact that they were still technically employed kept them from being included on the Social Welfare beneficiary lists.

During April, some 8,700 refugees and 1,930 host families were assisted with the Federation hygiene parcels and WFP food items, while some 72,400 social case families received the Federation hygiene parcels and food items provided by different donors.

In May, some 7,500 refugees and 2,000 host families received monthly assistance through the Federation in the form of hygiene parcels and WFP food parcels. Some 74,000 social case families received bi-monthly Federation hygiene parcels assistance. Food was provided by different donors.

As a part of ECHO visibility, plastic bags with the Federation and ECHO logos have been dispatched to local Red Cross branches.

The Federation Food Monitoring expanded its activities to the social cases programme, thus providing a clear picture of the impact of the social cases programme and allowing comparison of the living conditions of both groups, refugees and social cases. The collected data has been analysed and reports have been produced.

The ongoing activities of Relief/Logistics were carried out according to schedule. The Red Cross of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been asked by UNHCR to manage a new consolidated Collective Center in the suburbs of Skopje for primarily Roma refugees. When complete, it will house over 1,500 people.

Currently, the Federation has one major operational warehouse of approximately 3,500 square meters.

#### **The Red Cross of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia •**

On 25 February 2000, the Executive Committee of the Red Cross of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia gave another four year mandate to their current Secretary General. He will serve another eleven months until his mandatory retirement age.

The Red Cross Information Centres in Skopje and Tetovo are proceeding their work as usual, conducting interviews and receiving telephone calls. In addition to psycho-social support, these centres also provide assistance through procurement of educational kits and provision of monthly bus tickets. In January, psychological support teams consisting of Red Cross

activists, UNICEF and Social Welfare aid workers were visiting collective centres in Radusa, Cicino Selo and Ljubanci.

In February, posters on dental health care were distributed and lectures were organised in collective centres and local Red Cross branches in co-operation with the Health Department of the Red Cross of FYROM.

A questionnaire was prepared in March to help assess the vulnerability of the newly arrived people from Presevo county. The interviews helped in finding out the reasons for their movement and their eligibility for social support.

Re-registration of refugees also began in March in order to ensure their refugee status until 28 June. The red cards were replaced with yellow cards for those whose status was reconfirmed. The white card holders i.e. those who entered the country after the official registration of refugees, will have to go through a revision process.

In May, the Red Cross of FYROM held their General Assembly. Many newer and younger participants were seen. The Executive Committee elected at this assembly is composed of 16 members, 10 of which are newcomers to the Committee.

#### **Participating National Societies •**

*Finnish Red Cross (FRC):* The Finnish RC (FRC) office in Skopje continues supporting the activities of its operations in Kosovo. Bank transactions and purchase arrangements have been ongoing as scheduled. During February, two SISU trucks and one Mercedes truck were provided to serve the projects of the Federation Delegation in FYROM and three Volkswagen transporters were donated to the Federation's office in Pristina.

*American Red Cross (ARC):* The American Red Cross has continued to run a health programme and a social cases programme in south-west and eastern FYROM. These programmes were expanded in January and now include 19,469 families. It is estimated that 78,000 people receive food assistance each month through 13 Red Cross branches.

On 17 February, the American Red Cross Balkans Regional Delegation in association with the Red Cross of FYROM, the Federation, the Catholic Relief Service and the Mercy Corps International held a Relief Distribution Seminar. The workshop was designed to standardise food distributions and warehouse forms among humanitarian organisations in the region. Other goals were to improve and standardise information flow, obtain a higher level of efficiency in food relief activities, and better utilise warehouse space.

The Red Cross of FYROM and the American Red Cross launched a public information campaign on the National Blood Donation Day, 17 March. Some 200 posters encouraging blood donation were placed in Skopje and three other cities. Future education campaigns will include HIV/AIDS awareness and pedestrian and driver safety. The ARC is currently examining a proposal for assisting the Red Cross of FYROM in renovations of its headquarters in Skopje, with a projected start this summer.

A new American RC Institutional Development (ID) delegate arrived at the end of April. The first ID project is renovation of the attic facilities of the Red Cross of FYROM headquarters building, as part of their income generation project. On the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, an HIV/AIDS awareness billboard was printed as a part of the public health protection campaign.

*German Red Cross (GRC):* The GRC has continued its programmes including the support to the Red Cross of FYROM to manage the collective centre at Dare Bombol with 180 Roma refugees; the support to the collective centre in Gazi Baba, managed by UNHCR; and a social cases programme co-ordinated with the Federation. During the first quarter, some 150 vulnerable people benefited from the soup-kitchen opened in Chair. During January, one Land Cruiser was allocated to the Red Cross of FYROM and 40 Clinics of the Medical Centre in Skopje were equipped with mattresses and sheets donated by the Red Cross of Baden Württemberg.

The GRC also supports the Disaster Preparedness Programme of the Red Cross of FYROM. In co-operation with the Turkish Red Crescent Society, training courses have been prepared for Disaster Preparedness staff.

As regards support to social cases, monthly rations, mainly food, are provided for 6,650 families living in Kumanovo, Sveti Nikole and Radovis. The programme, launched in July 1999, will proceed until September 2000. In total, 67 MT of flour, 18,600 litres of cooking oil, 13 MT of sugar and 3.5 MT of salt have been distributed on a monthly basis.

An assessment visit was carried out to the mental hospital in Demir Kapija in April, in order to arrange for the rehabilitation of the living quarters of the building and improvement of the sanitary facilities.

Near Skopje, the GRC regional office plans to cover the costs of the construction of a 2,000 sq. metres warehouse. The warehouse will provide the Red Cross of FYROM with additional capacity and the ability to generate steady income for the Red Cross headquarters core expenses.

*Spanish Red Cross (SRC):* In February, the SRC agreed to fund an information telephone line for social cases and refugees, providing information on distributions, necessary documents, the criteria for social aid, etc. The office will be set up in a local Red Cross branch in Skopje and will include a Social Welfare Office worker and a Red Cross social worker. Additional financial support is expected from the Spanish Red Cross headquarters in Madrid to enable the official opening to take place.

The rehabilitation of the Red Cross summer resort building in Pretor has been finalised. The lists of the people to visit Pretor Red Cross summer camp are currently being completed. The elderly, disabled and children will have the priority.

*French Red Cross (FRC):* The FRC received 15 proposals from the operating National Society to do minor repairs and small projects with the branch offices and warehouses. Five or six of these proposals will be selected. The FRC office in FYROM is mainly a support office for the FRC Kosovo operation.

#### **Tracing/ICRC •**

During the first quarter, the tracing office registered the following statistics: 351 Red Cross messages were received for distribution, civilians and detainees included, 313 were sent to civilians and detainees, while 187 Red Cross messages were sent back to the sender.

The reception service in Skopje has registered 386 visitors and 620 phone calls, while Tetovo office had 67 visitors and 50 phone calls. There were 130 tracing requests received from National Societies for the months of March and April.

## ***Outstanding needs***

The budget for 2000 was revised to a total of CHF 6,324,991 and the Appeal is now covered by 75.4 % based on the revision. Funds are still needed for the Relief Programme for Social Cases and for the delegation running costs.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

The Federation World Disaster Report was launched in Skopje in June, and a copy provided along with a video tape to the national TV and all local TV stations. A broadcast followed on some of them later on. All major embassies, NGOs and other organisations as well as all dailies in Macedonian and Albanian languages were contacted with a press release on the event.

The Government Department of Agriculture and Trade is concerned about the impact of the humanitarian aid on the market. The Department requested the concerned NGOs to reduce distributions. Accordingly, the total number of social case beneficiary families was cut down to 45,000 from 73,000. This is coming at a time when 40 % of the social cases are taking a 30% cut in financial support from the government.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex I for details.

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

| FYR Macedonia   |             |                  |      |           |          | ANNEX 1   |
|---|-------------|------------------|------|-----------|----------|---|
| APPEAL No. 01.38/2000                                     |             | PLEDGES RECEIVED |      |           | 29/08/00 |   |
| DONOR   | CATEGORY    | QUANTITY         | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE     | COMMENT   |
| <b>CASH</b>   |             |                  |      |           |          |   |
| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->                            |             |                  |      | 6,324,990 |          | <b>TOTAL COVERAGE<br/>75.4%</b>   |
| <b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD FROM 1999</b>                  |             |                  |      | 0         |          |   |
| Reallocation of income from the Balkans Joint Appeal 1999 |             |                  |      | 2,152,838 |          |   |
| Outstanding payment from ECHO                             |             |                  |      | 892,520   |          | 20% payment to be received after final settlement of the contract from ECHO |
| AMERICAN - GOVT   |             | 330,600          | USD  | 562,020   | 18.05.00 | PURCHASE HYGIENE PARCELS  |
| CANADA - GOVT/RC  |             | 250,000          | CAD  | 271,175   | 27/03/00 | DISASTER PREPARDNESS ACTIV.   |
| GERMAN - RC   |             |                  |      | 149,000   | 29/06/00 | PSYCHOLOGICAL PROGRAMME   |
| NETHERLANDS - RC  |             |                  |      | 25,500    | 26/04/00 | DEL MARAT YUNOSOV   |
| SWEDISH - GOVT/RC   |             | 690,000          | SEK  | 129,927   | 22/05/00 | RELIEF, DELEGATION MANAGEMENT   |
| SWEDISH - RC  |             | 2,498,655        | SEK  | 466,499   | 24/01/00 | RELIEF, DELEGATION MANAGEMENT   |
| <b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>                         |             |                  |      | 4,649,479 | CHF      | 73.5%   |
| <b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>            |             |                  |      |           |          |   |
| DONOR   | CATEGORY    | QUANTITY         | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE     | COMMENT   |
| Belgium   | Delegate(s) |                  |      | 14,291    |          |   |
| Netherlands   | Delegate(s) |                  |      | 38,111    |          |   |
| Netherlands   | Delegate(s) |                  |      | 30,000    |          | LINKER  |
| New Zealand   | Delegate(s) |                  |      | 15,934    |          |   |
| USA   | Delegate(s) |                  |      | 18,891    |          |   |
| <b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>                |             |                  |      | 117,227   | CHF      | 1.9%  |
| <b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>                        |             |                  |      |           |          |   |
| DONOR   | CATEGORY    | QUANTITY         | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE     | COMMENT   |
| <b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>                                 |             |                  |      | 0         | CHF      |   |
| <b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>  |             |                  |      |           |          |   |
| PMK511, PMK515, PMK516.                                   |             |                  |      |           |          |   |

| <b>FYR Macedonia</b>                                |                       |                       |                  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
|   |                       | ANNEX 1               |                  |
| <b><u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u></b>                        |                       |                       |                  |
| <b>APPEAL No. 01.38/2000R</b>                       |                       |                       |                  |
|   | 0                     |                       |                  |
| TYPE  | <u>Initial Budget</u> | <u>Revised Budget</u> | <u>Variances</u> |
| <b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>                                 |                       |                       |                  |
| Shelter & constructions                             | 514,000               |                       | 514,000          |
| Clothing & textiles                                 |                       |                       | 0                |
| Food & seeds  | 9,720                 | 9,720                 | 0                |
| Water   |                       |                       | 0                |
| Medical & first aid                                 | 13,800                | 2,769,800             | -2,756,000       |
| Teaching materials                                  | 18,000                | 18,000                | 0                |
| Utensils & tools                                    |                       |                       | 0                |
| Other relief supplies                               | 5,629,920             | 691,896               | 4,938,024        |
| <b>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</b>                           | <b>6,185,440</b>      | <b>3,489,416</b>      | <b>2,696,024</b> |
| <b><u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u></b>                     |                       |                       |                  |
| Other equipment                                     |                       | 3,600                 | -3,600           |
| <b><u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u></b>                     |                       |                       |                  |
| Programme management                                | 612,797               | 391,268               | 221,529          |
| Technical support                                   | 183,439               | 116,806               | 66,633           |
| Professional services                               | 203,433               | 130,210               | 73,223           |
| <b>TRANSPORT STORAGE &amp; VEHICLE COSTS</b>        | <b>853,370</b>        | <b>1,088,772</b>      | <b>-235,402</b>  |
| <b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>                             |                       |                       |                  |
| Expatriate staff                                    | 367,800               | 373,330               | -5,530           |
| National staff                                      | 286,280               | 365,964               | -79,684          |
| Personnel (support costs)                           |                       | 110,240               |                  |
| <b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; GENERAL SERVICES</u></b> |                       |                       |                  |
| Travel & related expenses                           | 28,020                | 20,854                | 7,166            |
| Information expenses                                | 2,000                 | 2,600                 | -600             |
| Administrative & general expenses                   | 365,320               | 231,930               | 133,390          |
| External workshops & seminars                       |                       |                       | 0                |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</b>                      | <b>2,902,459</b>      | <b>2,835,574</b>      | <b>177,125</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES</b>            | <b>9,087,899</b>      | <b>6,324,990</b>      | <b>2,873,149</b> |
| <b>LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)</b>                 |                       | <b>4,766,706</b>      |                  |
| <b>NET REQUEST</b>                                  |                       | <b>1,558,284</b>      |                  |

| <b>AP01.38/2000 - Revised Budget</b>     |                      |  |                       |                  |
|--|----------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| <b>FYR of Macedonia</b>                  |                      |  |                       |                  |
|  | <b>PMK511</b>        | <b>PMK515</b>                                  | <b>PMK516</b>         |                  |
| <b>NAME</b>                              | <b>Macedonia SWP</b> | <b>Macedonia Delegation and Refugee Relief</b> | <b>Balkans ECHO 2</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>     |
| Shelter & construction                   |                      |  |                       |                  |
| Clothing & textiles                      |                      |  |                       |                  |
| Food & seeds                             | 9,720                |  |                       | <b>9,720</b>     |
| Water                                    | 0                    |  |                       |                  |
| Medical & first aid                      | 13,800               | 2,756,000                                      |                       | <b>2,769,800</b> |
| Teaching materials                       | 18,000               |  |                       | <b>18,000</b>    |
| Utensils & tools                         | 0                    |  |                       |                  |
| Other relief supplies                    | 13,920               |  | 677,976               | <b>691,896</b>   |
| <b>Sub total supplies</b>                | <b>55,440</b>        | <b>2,756,000</b>                               | <b>677,976</b>        | <b>3,489,416</b> |
| Land & Buildings                         |                      |  |                       |                  |
| Vehicles                                 |                      |  |                       |                  |
| Computers & telecom                      |                      |  |                       |                  |
| Medical equipment                        |                      |  |                       |                  |
| Other capital expenses                   |                      | 3,600  |                       | <b>3,600</b>     |
| <b>Sub total capital</b>                 | <b>0</b>             | <b>3,600</b>                                   | <b>0</b>              | <b>3,600</b>     |
| Programme management                     | 11,227               | 337,967  | 42,073                | <b>391,268</b>   |
| Technical services                       | 3,352                | 100,894  | 12,560                | <b>116,806</b>   |
| Professional services                    | 3,736                | 112,472  | 14,002                | <b>130,210</b>   |
| <b>Sub total programme support</b>       | <b>18,316</b>        | <b>551,334</b>                                 | <b>68,635</b>         | <b>638,285</b>   |
| <b>Transport &amp; storage</b>           | <b>15,430</b>        | <b>995,342</b>                                 | <b>78,000</b>         | <b>1,088,772</b> |
| Personnel (delegates)                    |                      | 127,630  | 245,700               | <b>373,330</b>   |
| Personnel (local staff)                  | 51,080               | 248,584  | 66,300                | <b>365,964</b>   |
| Personnel (support costs)                |                      | 110,240  |                       | <b>110,240</b>   |
| <b>Sub total personnel</b>               | <b>51,080</b>        | <b>486,454</b>                                 | <b>312,000</b>        | <b>849,534</b>   |
| Travel & related expenses                | 2,520                | 18,334   |                       | <b>20,854</b>    |
| Information expenses                     | 2,000                | 600  |                       | <b>2,600</b>     |
| <b>Sub total Travel &amp; communica</b>  | <b>4,520</b>         | <b>18,934</b>                                  | <b>0</b>              | <b>23,454</b>    |
| Admin & general expenses                 | 21,720               | 200,460  | 9,750                 | <b>231,930</b>   |
| External worksh./seminars                |                      |  |                       |                  |
| Core Costs                               |                      |  |                       |                  |
| <b>Sub total general &amp; administr</b> | <b>21,720</b>        | <b>200,460</b>                                 | <b>9,750</b>          | <b>231,930</b>   |
| <b>Total budget</b>                      | <b>166,506</b>       | <b>5,012,124</b>                               | <b>1,146,361</b>      | <b>6,324,991</b> |
| <b>Less estimated resources</b>          |                      |  |                       |                  |
| <b>Total assistance sought</b>           | <b>166,506</b>       | <b>5,012,124</b>                               | <b>1,146,361</b>      | <b>6,324,991</b> |

