

ALBANIA: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

28 August 2000

appeal no. 01.39/2000

situation report no. 1 - Budget Revision

period covered: January - June, 2000

The highlight of this six month period was the finalisation by the Albanian Red Cross of its new Strategy Plan 2000-2004. The Albanian Red Cross and the Federation Country Delegation hosted a PNS meeting in Tirana in May, which was important in ensuring that all assistance provided in future by PNS to the Albanian Red Cross be in line with the Albanian Red Cross Strategy Plan 2000-2004.

The budget for the year has been revised reflecting changing circumstances and a review of programme priorities. Details are provided in Annex 1.

The context

As Albania entered year 2000, it continued to face serious economic difficulties and political instability. With a population of 3.1 million, Albania remains one of the poorest countries in Europe, rated 100 in the global Human Development Index (Human Development Report 1999), with GDP per capita \$2,120, and high levels of endemic unemployment (official unemployment figure 236,821 in July 1999). 25% of the population are earning less than \$32 per month, and are therefore below the official poverty level. The Balkans Crisis of 1999, which led to an influx of over 450,000 Kosovo refugees into Albania and their subsequent rapid exit, continues to have an impact on the country, and on the most vulnerable, whose situation has become more difficult, owing to the increase in prices of basic commodities.

Country Assistance Strategy

To respond to the situation in Albania, the overall strategy of the Federation was formed to assist the Albanian Red Cross (ARC) to draw up and begin implementation of a new strategic development plan for the coming five years (2000-2004). In addition, the Federation intends to enable the ARC to maintain and improve its current programmes, in particular its services to the vulnerable groups served by its social welfare activities, and to improve and increase standardisation of the operational capacity of its network of 36 branches spread throughout the country. The ARC, with the support of the Federation, has focused relief activities on distributions to categories of beneficiaries including the remaining Kosovo refugees and their host families, social cases and war affected villagers.

Latest events

While the situation in Albania during the first half of the year was moderately calm, the security situation appeared to worsen with criminality becoming more widespread.

Events in Yugoslavia are a cause for concern; the future of the country, uncertain at the best of times, is even more unpredictable than normal. While contingency planning and readiness is kept at a relatively high level, food stocks are being released slowly to supply social programmes in the north of Albania and the remaining refugees. The American Red Cross and other agencies (most notably WFP) have considerable stocks which can be released at short notice in the event of any need.

The major topic of debate during the period has been the preparation for local elections planned for the fall of this year. The administrative structure of the country will change from 36 districts to 12 - 15 regions, which entails constituency boundary changes and is therefore politically charged. During January, doubts were voiced regarding the stability of the four largest banks.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Disaster Response and Preparedness •

Relief

The Country Delegation has taken the lead in working with the ARC, National Societies and ICRC in Albania on refining the contingency plan for a possible influx of refugees from Montenegro. The complete stock of emergency tinned food (206,118 tins), BP5 biscuits, as well as 5,000 ten litre collapsible water bags and 3,280 MRE rations have been prepositioned in Shkoder in case of an influx of refugees. Additional blankets and food parcels have also been reserved in Tirana. The plan is reviewed on a monthly basis. There have been ongoing discussions with other agencies to ensure the plan is co-ordinated.

The number of refugees in host families covered by the Kosovo refugee programme remains around 2000. From the interviews and the discussions with the refugees in the field it is estimated that most plan to leave in summer, while some will remain until their houses are reconstructed in Kosovo. The programme was due to end 30 June 2000 but after a request by UNHCR for further assistance, it was agreed to extend the programme for one further month. This final distribution in July will be a double distribution to cover the months July and August 2000.

The total number of beneficiaries assisted in June was:

• Kosovo Refugees in Host Families:	2,127
• Kosovo Refugees in Collective Centres:	200
• Number of Hosting Families:	149
Total number of beneficiaries:	2,476

Each refugee and hosting families were provided with 1 standard food parcel, 8 kg of wheat flour and 1 family hygiene parcel (per family).

In the War-Affected Programme, assistance was provided to 5,505 beneficiaries in Kukës and Has during the first quarter. In addition to the food ration, 3,676 war affected people were supported with winter items such as winter shoes, underwear, hats and socks funded by ECHO. Although this programme formally ended in March 2000, taking into consideration the needs, an extra distribution for 1,028 families was undertaken in April 2000. The distribution consisted of: 825 kg of milk powder, 2,056 kg of sugar, 820 Lt oil, 5,605 pieces of soap, 2210 kg of washing power and 2,056 pieces of plastic sheeting.

After the beneficiary list for the 2,941 war affected population in Tropoja had been checked and confirmed, a three month distribution (May to July 2000) was undertaken. Due to security problems, this was the *first* distribution in this isolated northern District by any major NGO since mid 1999. Due to good planning and support by the Federation and the ARC, the distribution has to date, proceeded without incident. A total of 3,696 food parcels, 1,631 hygiene parcels, 29,296 kg of wheat flour and 85 baby parcels were distributed.

In Montenegro, the situation is calm but with the potential to deteriorate rapidly. The Albanian Delegation's contingency plan was updated in May 2000. A major review of all remaining stocks in the Federation warehouses was undertaken in April 2000 in order to ensure the disaster preparedness stock for Albanian RC is properly identified and of good quality.

The ECHO-funded renovation of the ARC disaster preparedness regional warehouses in Shkodra and Fier has commenced and is expected to be completed in August 2000. The process of painting the three ARC volunteer training centres and installation of security systems, partition walls, shutters and air conditioning is ongoing and is expected to be completed in July 2000. These renovations have also been covered by ECHO. Planning for the design of the Albanian RC disaster preparedness central warehouse in Tirana has commenced and it is expected construction should commence in the second half of 2000. The construction will be funded by donations (either in cash or in kind) from the Finnish, German, Canadian and Swedish Red Cross, with some funds carried over from last years Balkans Appeal.

The Belgian Red Cross (Flanders) commenced the delivery of the following DP stock (ECHO-funded): wheatflour - 40 MT, pasta - 8 MT, sugar - 8 MT, sunflower oil - 16,000 Ltr, jackets - 1,000 units, bed linen sets - 250 units, emergency beds (foldable) - 1,750 units, plastic sheeting (4x6m) - 350 units, tents - 350 units, watsan kit - 1 unit, water testing kit - 1 unit, posters - 3,000 units, leaflets - 10,000 units, 12 Ton Truck (2nd hand) - 1 unit. Delivery is planned to be completed by the end of July. The ARC also ran the first of two disaster preparedness workshops in June 2000 with funding provided by the Belgian Red Cross project.

- ***Socially Vulnerable Programme***

The American Red Cross Social programme in Shkodra and 7 other districts in the north is ongoing. During the first quarterly period, the American Red Cross distributed the remainder of the Federation food parcels. There was a small hiatus in the programme due to the transition from parcels to bulk "Food for Peace."

Local monitoring arrangements

The Relief Delegate and the Relief Officer assisted in all the distributions to the refugees, monitoring the distribution, checking paper work and also assisting branches to solve problems and difficulties during the distribution.

Problems & constraints - recommendations

During the reporting period, problems were encountered with refugee lists generated by the UNHCR. There remain a significant number of refugees with apparently correct UNHCR ID and family cards but who are not on the official UNHCR lists, while some of the names on the lists may not be Kosovo refugees. The Federation continues to work closely with UNHCR to tighten the monitoring system.

The ARC HQ has identified discrepancies in the procedures adopted by branches regarding distributions to refugees; especially regarding the integrity of lists. The paper work and record keeping has considerably improved compared to the previous month. Despite this, collection of data and effective communication between Tirana and the branches continues to be a problem.

Outstanding needs - office and relief operation

Some of the local branches continue to need equipment such as fax machines, vehicles and even computers. This sometimes causes a delay in getting the proper information from these branches. This is being worked upon by ARC HQ, the country delegation and PNS.

Institutional Development ●

Activities focused primarily on:

- Revision and translation of the ARC Statutes.
- Completing the ARC Strategy Plan 2000 - 2004.
- Preparing for and facilitating the PNS Meeting of May 23 and 24.
- Development, implementation and reporting of the Branch Assessment.

To complete the ARC Strategy Plan, workshop sessions were facilitated by the Federation's Regional Delegation based in Budapest. These sessions were for developing the Mission and Vision Statements, as well as for setting objectives and developing activities to meet the objectives.

The restructuring of the organigram for headquarters continues to be an on-going project.

Training for headquarters staff in budgeting has been implemented and is on-going on a weekly basis. Following this training, there are plans to develop some basic budgeting and reporting strategies for the branches, so that they will more fully align with the budget process of headquarters.

As part of the reporting process for the branch assessment, a seminar on developing guidelines for branch project proposals was held with the Programme Co-ordinators. Basic guidelines are being developed for use by the branches. At the same time, specific guidelines for writing proposals, guidelines for developing a budget for a proposed project, and a sample project proposal were distributed to all branches at the end of June.

An action plan is being developed for both management and governance on key issues of institutional development such as the development of a Volunteer Management Structure, design of Branch Profiles, and Project Management for both headquarters and branches.

Health ●

During the period under review, a donation took place of a large consignment of drugs to the central Government pharmacy in January. The only medical supplies remaining from the Balkans Crisis last year were the German Red Cross drugs (ECHO-funded) intended for 14 regional hospitals, and a large amount of medication (7.5 MT) which had to be destroyed. With regard to the German Red Cross drugs, following discussions with the Ministry of Health in Tirana and the regions and ECHO, agreement was reached in February that the distribution would also be undertaken to smaller health facilities. Discussions are now ongoing concerning logistical arrangements.

Logistics ●

During the reporting period, logistics activity has focused on consolidating systems and supporting the ARC and PNS in their programmes. The truck and light vehicle fleet were reduced, as well as staff. Warehousing was also reduced drastically, in line with diminishing relief distributions.

Albanian Red Cross ●

The chief activity of the ARC during the period has been the creation of a 5-year strategy. This includes a new set of statutes and a restructuring of the organisation (this is, of course, allied to the proposed changes in the Government administration system). A significant number of operational activities continued. With 6 PNS present in Albania, each supporting different activities, it has been a quite intensive time for ARC HQ and branches.

Participating National Societies ●

- The American Red Cross, running a one year food distribution programme aimed at 44,000 elderly people in 8 Northern districts of Albania was active during the period. The Food for Peace commodities were delivered via Greece (they arrived end of March in Thessaloniki). The payment methods for Federation services are being finalised with the American Red Cross representative in Albania.

- The Belgian Red Cross programmes continue.
- The French Red Cross is rehabilitating the Psychiatric Hospital in Elbasan, the biggest hospital of its kind in Albania. A programme of assistance to vulnerable people in Skrapar District is ongoing.
- The German Red Cross is rehabilitating the Kukes Hospital and is planning the rehabilitation of a hospital in Korçe. The health project (delivery of drugs to 14 regional hospitals) is ongoing. The GRC will support the establishment of a strategic branch in Korçe.
- The Spanish Red Cross are planning to rehabilitate 50 small health centres in Durres town with remaining ECHO funds.

ICRC ●

During the period, the ICRC moved to new premises. The main activities centre on protection, dissemination and detention.

Outstanding needs

The budget for 2000 has now been revised to a total of CHF 8,688,551. While support for 2000 has been extremely generous, funding is still needed to cover delegation running costs, and there remains a gap in the funding for the construction of the ARC central DP warehouse of approximately CHF 480,000. The ARC hopes that PNS will now be able to make long term commitments towards the new ARC Strategy 2000-2004.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The Federation Delegation and ARC have continued to maintain close relations with the Government, UN agencies, NGOs and local media. All relationships in Albania are functioning effectively. With the arrival of a new ICRC Head of Delegation, a joint effort (ARC, Federation and ICRC) will be made in the international community and Government Ministries in order to disseminate information regarding the emblem, other local needs, and issues of concern to the ARC.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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

Albania						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.39/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED				29/08/00
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				8,688,551		TOTAL COVERAGE 78.2%
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD FROM 1999				838,089		
Reallocation of Income from the Balkans Joint Appeal 1999				1,225,741		
Outstanding payments from ECHO contracts				2,300,200		20% of contract to be received at final settlement of the contract by ECHO
CANADIAN - RC		250,000	CAD	271,175	27.03.00	DPP AND DISASTER RESPONSE
DANISH - RC		300,000	DKK	62,580	26.05.00	FUNDRAISING PROGRAMME
DANISH - RC		1,500,000	DKK	312,900	26.05.00	ID PROGRAMME
DANISH - RC		500,000	DKK	104,300	26.05.00	HEALTH PROGRAMME
DANISH - RC		500,000	DKK	104,300	26.05.00	DPP, ARC LOTTERY & ASRC STRATEGY
DANISH - RC		300,000	DKK	62,580	26.05.00	INFORMATION & DISSEMINATION
DANISH - RC		500,000	DKK	104,300	26.5.00	SOCIAL PROGRAMME
FINNISH - RC		89,094	EUR	140,100	29.05.00	DPP
IRELAND - GOVT		100,000	IEP	204,700	17.12.99	RESTORATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES
NEW ZEALAND - RC		100	NZD	77	30.06.00	
SWEDEN - GOVT/RC		2'501'345	SEK	466,721	01/03/00	SUP- HOST FAMILIES + VULNERABLE
SWEDISH GOVT		1,150,000	SEK	216,545	22.05.00	ID, HEALTH, FA, DISASTER RESPONSE
SWEDISH - RC		500,000	SEK	93,350	17.01.00	SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME
MOROCCO - RC				3,210	03/03/00	KOSOVO REFUGEES
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				6,510,868	CHF	74.9%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Australia	Delegate(s)			49,774		
Canada	Delegate(s)			50,759		
Denmark	Delegate(s)			14,949		
Norway	Delegate(s)			63,080		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			58,316		
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			43,367		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				280,245	CHF	3.2%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PAL001, PAL002, PAL005, PAL006, PAL110, PAL160, PAL511, PAL515, PAL516, PAL520.						
Note that PAL520 is already linked to this appeal but due to non financial movement this code does not show up in the list of the Project summary financial statement by appeal.						

Albania			
		ANNEX I	
<u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u>			
APPEAL No. 01.39/2000R			
TYPE	<u>Initial Budget</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>	<u>Variances</u>
RELIEF NEEDS			
Shelter & constructions		206,224	-206,224
Clothing & textiles	45,000	8,535	36,465
Food & seeds	445,500	303,404	142,096
Water			0
Medical & first aid	24,750	159,934	-135,184
Teaching materials		23,632	-23,632
Utensils & tools			0
Other relief supplies		162,485	-162,485
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	515,250	864,214	-348,964
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Land & Buildings	273,000	2,020,789	-1,747,789
Vehicles		52,650	-52,650
Computers & telecom	318,200	401,550	-83,350
Other equipment	30,722	20,014	10,708
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme management	394,162	585,869	-191,707
Technical support	117,991	175,378	-57,387
Professional services	130,852	194,493	-63,642
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	1,392,178	1,273,407	118,771
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
Expatriate staff	1,043,290	535,620	507,670
National staff	994,959	1,145,657	-150,698
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>			
Travel & related expenses	111,351	36,300	75,051
Information expenses	106,739	292,325	-185,586
Administrative & general expenses	416,809	723,915	-307,106
External workshops & seminars		366,369	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	5,330,253	7,824,337	-2,127,714
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	5,845,503	8,688,551	-2,476,678
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		6,791,113	
NET REQUEST		1,897,438	

AP01.39/2000 - Revised Budget													
Albania													
Accounts	PAL001 ID	PAL002 HEALTH	PAL005 SOCIAL	PAL006 DISSEMINATION	PAL007 FIRSTAID	PAL010 BLOOD	PAL015 YOUTH	PAL020 ARC HQ	PAL110 FUNDRAISING	PAL160 DPP	PAL516 DISASTER RESPONSE	PAL515 DELEGATION	TOTAL
Shelter & construction										206,224			206,224
Clothing & textiles			4,586							3,949			8,535
Food & seeds			208,634							94,770			303,404
Water													
Medical & first aid		17,550			142,384								159,934
Teaching materials			23,632										23,632
Utensils & tools			58,940							103,545			162,485
Other relief supplies													
Sub total supplies	0	17,550	295,792	0	142,384	0	0	0	0	408,488	0	0	864,214
Land & Buildings	481,420		74,880							1,462,734	1,755		2,020,789
Vehicles										52,650			52,650
Computers & telecom								14,309		9,641		377,600	401,550
Medical equipment													
Other capital expenses			6,910	10,530				1,170		1,404			20,014
Sub total capital	481,420	0	81,790	10,530	0	0	0	15,479	0	1,526,429	1,755	377,600	2,495,003
Programme management	63,407	3,590	49,880	6,449	36,965	6,685	6,818	36,410	9,189	150,871	21,333	194,274	585,869
Technical services	18,929	1,072	14,891	1,925	11,035	1,996	2,035	10,869	2,743	45,040	6,368	57,997	174,901
Professional services	21,101	1,195	16,600	2,146	12,302	2,225	2,269	12,117	3,058	50,208	7,099	64,652	194,971
Sub total programme support	103,437	5,857	81,370	10,520	60,302	10,905	11,122	59,396	14,989	246,119	34,800	316,923	955,741
Transport & storage	3,264	2,176	187,434	4,896	2,176	2,176	3,808	147,069	2,176	28,981	143,641	745,610	1,273,407
Personnel (delegates)												535,620	535,620
Personnel (local staff)	205,953	14,184	63,012	49,617	16,834	12,145	21,742	174,329	20,869	19,080	117,988	429,904	1,145,657
Personnel (support costs)													
Sub total personnel	205,953	14,184	63,012	49,617	16,834	12,145	21,742	174,329	20,869	19,080	117,988	965,524	1,681,277
Travel & related expenses												36,300	36,300
Information expenses		9,653	19,691	16,649	50,515	69,668	8,541		98,233			19,375	292,325
Sub total Travel & communication	0	9,653	19,691	16,649	50,515	69,668	8,541	0	98,233	0	0	55,675	328,625
Admin & general expenses	138,750			1,755			1,755	143,688			18,182	419,785	723,915
External worksh./seminars	7,511	3,826	10,642	1,673	275,987	4,240	54,141			8,349			366,369
Core Costs													
Sub total general & administrative	146,261	3,826	10,642	3,428	275,987	4,240	55,896	143,688	0	8,349	18,182	419,785	1,090,284
Total budget	940,335	53,246	739,731	95,640	548,198	99,134	101,109	539,961	136,267	2,237,446	316,366	2,881,117	8,688,551
Less estimated resources													0
Total assistance sought	940,335	53,246	739,731	95,640	548,198	99,134	101,109	539,961	136,267	2,237,446	316,366	2,881,117	8,688,551