

## ***ALBANIA: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE***

*12 December,  
2000*

*appeal no. 01.39/2000*

*situation report no. 2*

*period covered: July - September, 2000*

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*This report covers what has been a very busy but profitable 3 months. The Albanian Red Cross (ARC) continue to have many initiatives underway concurrently; especially in the areas of institutional and resource development concerning both governance and management and also in disaster preparedness.*

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### ***The context***

Albania continues 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 (the official unemployment figure was 17% in September, while the media reports it at up to 40%). 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, is steadily having a diminishing impact on the country and on the most vulnerable whose situation has become more difficult due to the increase in prices of basic commodities. At the end of September 2,000 approximately 2,000 refugees remained in Albania, but only 420 are officially registered by UNHCR. Most of these people remain in the hope that resettlement to a third country of asylum will be possible. UNHCR held a conference during the reporting period with representatives of potential host countries articulating the criteria for such a scheme.

The economy of Albania continues to show sluggish growth. The macro indicators are favourable with an increase in privatization, cash inflows from commercial sectors and production from Albanian

manufacturing and agricultural facilities. There remains a long way to go in terms of investing in all commercial areas.

The mine awareness issue remains a high priority for the ARC and for the Government, and it is hoped that mine clearing activities will advance in the spring of next year. The ICRC are actively involved in raising awareness of this issue with the relevant bodies.

## ***Latest events***

The security situation in Albania is worsening with criminality becoming more widespread. The political campaign rhetoric, aimed at the local elections which took place in early October, has not been particularly constructive. The electoral events in Yugoslavia have also had a significant impact on Albania. The relationship with Kosovo, lacking clarity during the last year due to the uncertain status of the territory, is now even less clear. It remains to be seen what will be the official position of the Government as events unfold.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

### **Disaster Response •**

The number of refugees accommodated with host families remains around 2,000. The Red Cross disaster assistance programme formally ended on 31 August 2000. UNHCR Tirana commenced direct payments to refugees in September for the monetary equivalent of the aid provided by the Red Cross. Assistance to the approximately 3,000 war affected population in Tropoja in northern Albania ended in August 2000 without major problems or complications.

### **Disaster Preparedness •**

The Albanian Red Cross and Federation contingency plan for Montenegro continued to be updated during this period to ensure the role of the Red Cross was clearly defined and co-ordinated with other agencies should an emergency occur.

The Albanian Red Cross received a copy of the Albanian Government's draft National Disaster Plan, and after consulting with the Federation Delegation and other agencies a formal reply was drafted.

Almost 15,000 posters and 70,000 leaflets on earthquake disaster preparedness have been printed by the Albanian Red Cross. The leaflets were distributed during a major Albanian Government disaster simulation exercise in southern Albania in October 2000.

ECHO-funded renovations to the Albanian Red Cross disaster preparedness regional warehouses in Shkodra and Fier were completed in September 2000. The provision of ECHO-funded installation of air-conditioning, security and painting of the Albanian Red Cross training centres in Tirana, Shkoder and Fier has also been completed on schedule and the training centres have already been used for first aid and disaster preparedness training.

A consultant engineering company for the Albanian Red Cross disaster preparedness central warehouse in Tirana has been chosen and it is expected construction should commence in late 2000. The construction will be funded by donations (either in cash or in kind) from the Finnish, German, Canadian, Danish, and Belgian (Flanders) Red Cross and some funds carried over from last years Balkans Appeal.

Land for the planned regional Albanian Red Cross warehouse/training centre in Korce (funded by the German Red Cross) has been purchased and plans are being developed for the construction phase.

All ECHO-funded DP stock (food and non-food items) from the Belgian (Flanders) Red Cross for the Albanian Red Cross has arrived and has been located in warehouses in Tirana, Shkoder and Fier.

### **Logistics issues •**

During the period under review, the logistics department has undergone a major downsizing in terms of resources held. The overall objective was to have all warehouses operated by the Federation closed by the end of October, and the fleet by the end of December (including all trucks). The destination of the commodities are chiefly other Red Cross operations throughout the region, and local branches of the ARC (some operating as part of PNS projects).

The regional telecommunications delegate working with the 2 ARC technicians installed the ECHO-funded wavemail system by the end of August. With the support of the Federation and an American Red Cross computer purchase, a LAN is now being installed in the Albania Red Cross headquarters.

### **Social Programme •**

This consists of the following activities:

- Continuation of the soup kitchen programme to 8 districts. There are 450 beneficiaries (lonely elderly people, orphans and families in difficulty). This project is supported by the Irish, Swiss, Belgian, and French Red Cross.
- There have been three on-going dress-making courses in 6 districts, each lasting three months for 370 beneficiaries (disadvantaged women and refugees). The Spanish and Swedish Red Cross provide support for this project.
- The food program for elderly beneficiaries to 8 districts of the northeast part of the country. 44,000 beneficiaries are assisted each month. The American Red Cross is the donor of the project.
- Daily bread support project to the elderly in the district of Vlora. There are 100 beneficiaries who are benefiting from daily bread deliveries. The German Red Cross supports this project.
- Assistance to the Elderly Houses in Tirana and Fier have included supplying equipment for the improvement of the centres. The Spanish Red Cross support this programme.
- Needs assessment seminars for the elderly and disabled have been organized with the support of the Swedish Red Cross.
- Improvements to the kindergarten in Memaliaj have included the implementation of a training activity with the personnel of the institution and the purchase of playing materials placed in the garden. The Spanish Red Cross supports this programme.
- Ad hoc non-food item distributions have been organized for 600 families in two local committees.
- Some local committees have organized social activities with their own funding for disabled children, orphans and elderly people.

### **Fundraising Programme •**

The following activities have been implemented:

- The lottery activity has been adjusted. There are now two drawings a month, a larger number of winners, and a phone game has been introduced to increase the interest of ticket buyers. TV and radio advertising is now accompanying the lottery. The three first drawings have indicated an increased revenue, but still far from the expected increase.
- The Fier local committee has collected some revenue by renting its training centre.

### **Humanitarian Values •**

The following activities have been implemented:

- Publication of the 13th issue of the ARC magazine.
- Publication of the ARC Strategy 2000-2004 which was sent to donors.
- Publication and distribution to the local committees of the Plan of Action of the ARC Strategy 2000-2004.
- Continuation of the mine awareness campaign in Tropoje, Kukes, and Has.

- Organization of a seminar relating to media issues, in co-operation with the Regional Delegation Budapest.

### **Health and Blood •**

The activities of the Health Education and Blood Donation Programme for the past four months have mainly focused on:

- The ARC has contributed in its capacity as an active partner of social mobilization in the vaccination campaign against measles and rubella. 1 million children under 15 years old have been vaccinated and the programme has published and prepared posters, leaflets, TV and radio spots, and trained 2,500 volunteers. The American Red Cross has contributed financial and technical inputs to mobilize the public.
- With ECHO financial support a TV programme has been prepared and broadcast for the blood donation programme and an evaluation workshop has been organized.
- With the financial support of the Danish Red Cross, the mother and child project has been implemented with the participation of 12 Red Cross branches and 120 volunteers. Information from more than 2,500 mothers has been collected and dissemination materials have been distributed.
- With financial support of the Spanish Red Cross, the "hygiene in the community" project has been implemented in 5 branches. More than 2,000 volunteers have been activated.

### **First Aid (FA) •**

The programme has planned and implemented the following activities during the four past months:

- three FA meetings have been organized in Fier, Korce and Durres in the frame of the FA National Competition. The final meeting was organized in 16 September (International FA Day).
- Participation at the 14th European FA Competition on 23 September in Nottvil, Switzerland. There were 25 national societies participating in the competition and ARC placed 13th.
- Organization in August of the FA Train the new Trainers course. The course was organized in Fier and a broad knowledge and information on the new skills and techniques have been gained by the participants.
- Two participants from the ARC participated at the second training on "Accident Simulation" organized in August in Prague. The ARC team won second place among 18 national societies. Accident simulation techniques have been presented for the first time last year and they continue to be used during FA activities.
- Four leaflets and two posters have been prepared. The recent changes in FA have been introduced in the existing FA manual. A new model of the FA kit has been prepared and ordered in Austria.

### **Institutional Development (ID) •**

Activities in institutional development for the past three months have primarily been in the following areas:

#### 1. Follow-up to branch assessments.

- In-depth summary report of assessment results.
- Presentation to local secretaries of the results.
- Development of materials and plans for follow-up to assessment (training initiatives in governance and needs assessment).

#### 2. Needs Assessment Training for Social Programs.

#### 3. Governance training and needs assessment for all levels of governance.

- All branch councils were trained.
- The General Council was trained using a different version of the Governance training program tailored to their needs.

#### 4. Establishment and implementation of the following commissions:

- Institutional Development Commission: made up of volunteers, governance members, headquarters' staff and local secretaries.
- Volunteer Management Structure Sub-Commission: initial discussions for process, and mandate developed.
- Institutional Development Team: made up of two ARC staff, one Federation ID Delegate, and one American Red Cross delegate; establishment of the role in relationship to the ID Commission.

Priorities for ID have been set for the immediate future, and are as follows:

- Continuation of branch development.
- Review and revision of the electoral process.
- Designing and implementing of a volunteer management structure.
- Creation of a branch profile.
- Image survey of the ARC.
- Development of fund raising capacity, particularly at the branch level.

### *Outstanding needs*

There remains a funding gap of approximately CHF 150,000 for the construction of the Albanian Red Cross central DP warehouse which is due to be completed in mid-2001.

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

Relationships with other organizations and entities are functioning well. The ICRC, Federation and ARC have recently had dealings with the Government related to the emblem issue.

### *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>**

<b>Albania</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 01.39/2000</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>			12/14/00	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>8,688,551</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 80.7%</b>
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD FROM 1999</b>				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
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		84,094	EUR	131,775	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	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,077,778	NOK	205,147	17.11.00	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
SWEDEN - GOVT/RC		2'501'345	SEK	466,721	01.03.00	DISASTER RESPONSE
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
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				6,707,690	CHF	77.2%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
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)			63,367		
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				300,245	CHF	3.5%
<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>						
PAL001, PAL002, PAL005, PAL006, PAL110, PAL160, PAL511, PAL515, PAL516, PAL520.						