

# **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**CHF 7,034,000**

**Programme No. 01.37/2000**

## ***Co-ordination***

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Integrated Appeal and management structure for the Balkans Crisis will end on 31 December 1999. However, the International Federation and ICRC will maintain a co-ordinated approach with their respective operations in the region in 2000, ensuring coherent, comprehensive and mutually reinforcing programmes which will cover a vast range of the ongoing humanitarian needs in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## ***National Context***

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is still going through a protracted, painful and multifaceted transition process four years after the signing of the Dayton Accord in November 1995 ended a devastating three-year war. The country continues to grapple with the political, social and economic problems inherent in constructing a single state from two ethnically divided entities, while at the same time continuing the process of reconstruction from the effects of the war as well as managing the transition from a centrally-planned economy to a free market system.

Despite investments of over US\$3.5 billion made by the international community since Dayton to ease this transition process, according to the UNDP's 1998 Human Development Report, nearly two-thirds of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to live in a state of poverty (58% in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 64% for the Republika Srpska (RS)). Unemployment remains at over one million persons out of an estimated working population of 2,407,700 and there is no significant industrial activity in either entity.

At the state level, the Presidency, Council of Ministers and Parliament are still not working together effectively and the Government of the Republika of Srpska is hampered by having no clear political majority in the entity parliament. While the Government of the Federation entity is making some progress on transition issues, ethnic tensions continue at the local and cantonal levels.

Many of the Dayton Accord provisions remain to be implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly the return of 600,000 refugees and 950,000 displaced persons to their original homes. Between 1996 and 1998, only an estimated 516,766 refugees and displaced persons have returned.

The focus of the international community's financial assistance has remained on political, economic and infrastructural reconstruction. This has left the welfare needs of the most vulnerable in BiH increasingly under-funded as the capacity of the authorities to implement welfare reform and establish a safety net for the country's elderly, sick and poor still lags far behind the needs. Home care programmes, such as that of the Red Cross (RC) in BiH, are therefore still vitally needed.

## ***Country Assistance Strategy***

The Federation, in co-operation and co-ordination with the ICRC, will continue to work with the two entity Red Cross organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina to form a single National Society as soon as possible. At the same time, it will maintain its capacity-building programmes to help the Red Cross structures assist vulnerable groups in both entities with increasing efficiency and effectiveness. These activities will include:

- Assisting the local Red Cross structure in maintaining and improving homecare services to approximately 13,000 vulnerable elderly people through the current Social Welfare Programme;
- Completing a Disaster Preparedness Assessment;
- Developing further the institutional development plans of the Red Cross structures in BiH;
- Positioning the two entity Red Cross structures as the primary providers of First Aid training in BiH; enhancing their Blood Donor Recruitment Programme; and supporting Public Health Education initiatives as funding opportunities permit;
- Expanding the current Red Cross Resource Development programme, but with a greater emphasis on fundraising and selected support for income generation activities, such as First Aid courses, that are closely linked to the Red Cross mandates;
- Promoting humanitarian values through more than 45 Red Cross youth groups that have been established over the past two years, and through internal and external communications.

## ***Programme Objectives***

### ***Disaster Preparedness and Response***

The Federation will assist the two entity Red Cross structures to establish greater disaster preparedness and response capability by supporting the completion of a disaster preparedness (DP) assessment and the development of a full DP policy, programme regulations, staffing and implementation.

### ***Health***

The Federation will continue to provide assistance to the Red Cross of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska Red Cross in their management of a homecare service programme to some 13,000 of the most vulnerable elderly and house bound persons in both entities. The Federation will work closely with the Entity Red Crosses to make the programme self sustainable, encouraging inter-entity activities in order to ensure that the Red Cross will be recognised as a major social service provider by government and the public in BiH. The Federation will also support the local Red Cross to advocate on behalf of the elderly, ensuring their needs are kept at the forefront of social policy debate.

The Federation will expand its support in the area of first aid training to help position the Red Cross structures in BiH as the main providers of this training. The Federation will seek to establish national standards for First Aid (FA) training courses and create, with the entity Red Crosses, a module suitable for learner drivers by June 2000. The goal will be to establish local Red Cross capacities and systems for marketing and pricing first aid training, ensure quality control standards are met, and set up customer satisfaction evaluation instruments to maximise the income generation potential of the First Aid programme. The Federation will also support the local Red Cross programme of FA training and competitions among school children in both entities.

A Reproductive Health Peer Education programme will be run with the local Red Cross organisations, targeting young people, and further support will be given to public health education through the development of Red Cross awareness campaigns on TB, AIDS and substance abuse.

A blood donor recruitment strategy for the Red Cross will be established in 2000 to match the need for a supply of safe blood and blood products in both entities of BiH.

### ***Humanitarian Values***

In the still bitterly divided Bosnia and Herzegovina, the promotion of humanitarian values is a vital ongoing initiative. The Red Cross has played a leading part in this field and will continue to promote reconciliation among young people through at least one cross-entity youth conference, workshop and/or summer camp with representatives from all 45 Red Cross youth groups which have been established around the country.

By the end of 2000, a minimum of two members from each youth group will also have been trained at cross-entity workshops in leadership skills, programme development, fundraising and other knowledge and skills related to Red Cross activities.

### ***Capacity Building***

The Federation will focus on establishing a strategic and development plan by the end of 2000, and supporting the establishment of a National Society Headquarters with the necessary staff, office space, equipment and operating costs. Assistance will be provided to support the development of the new National Society's governance structures and representation activities, and in identifying and implementing activities that achieve integration and closer collaboration in programme and functional areas. Assistance will be provided to promote and facilitate the formation of community-based action groups to assess, prioritise and develop local initiatives in response to community needs through partnerships, inter alia, with the USAID Democracy Network programme, local government structures and community leadership, and interested NGOs. A Resource Development plan will be developed to include policy, standards and structure and staffing.