

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ALBANIA

31 December, 2001

Appeal No. 01.53/2001

Appeal Target CHF 4,316,101

Programme Update No. 2; Period covered: October-November 2001: last Programme Update (no. 1) issued 14 November, 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 91.2%

Related Appeals: N/A

Outstanding needs: The appeal coverage of over 90% reflects a large carryover of 1999 and 2000 funds, but fresh funding in 2001 has been very limited and donors are encouraged to provide timely and adequate support to the Albania 2002 Annual Appeal (no. 01.43/2002).

Summary/Update: Albania remains a poor and trouble-plagued country. The Albanian Red Cross (ARC) has worked hard to successfully meet the objectives of the appeal. From training sessions to pamphlet and poster production and distribution, public awareness campaigns and hygiene parcel distribution, the programmes of the ARC are moving forward. There have been many accomplishments, and challenges have been identified. The development of local funding sources remains an important area of concern, and coordinating work with the various partner national societies is also a priority. At the moment the ARC is enjoying a very positive public perception, and is aiming at using this to help increase its activities. Cooperation with various government agencies continues. The role and position of the ARC in the country is on a solid footing, and moving towards greater strengths through wider reaching programmes and campaigns (such as new driver training courses and increased numbers of volunteers).

Operational Developments

During this period most of the objectives outlined in the appeal were met and their activities implemented accordingly. In one or two instances the objectives were changed or not met due to unforeseen circumstances (such as the unstable situation in Macedonia and the resulting Albanian Red Cross involvement). Some programs were also delayed due to difficulties in obtaining authorisations/permits from official authorities.

The situation in the country remains difficult in spite of the political stability of these past two years. This year's census showed that the population of the country is less than 3.1 million people and that the GDP per capita is \$1,094, with 16.8% of the population living below the poverty level. During 1999 approximately 17% of the

families in the country received assistance from the social governmental protection program. Funds transferred from emigrees remain the main financial source for a significant portion of Albanian families. The health infrastructure is experiencing continuous problems, and pensioners in particular are among those who are suffering the consequences of a harsh life.

Disaster Preparedness

Objective 1 To define the national disaster preparedness plan of the Albanian Red Cross (ARC) and the roles of various Red Cross structures to implement the plan.

To reach this objective, three activities were planned:

- Vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) to be undertaken by all local branches: So far, two training sessions have taken place (in October and November) with the assistance of the regional delegation for Central Europe. All headquarters coordinators as well as 12 main-branch secretaries and 6 leader volunteers were selected and have attended these workshops. Three more workshops will be organized in the first half of 2002 with the same group of participants. The delay in starting this VCA training was due to the internal restructuring of the ARC.
- Establishment of a working group on Disaster Response and Preparedness: Two staff and governance members meetings were organized to discuss the revision of the current policy of the national society for disaster situations. A draft was submitted and was approved by the General Council at the end of September and by the General Assembly in October 2001.
- Design a DP plan in consultation with external partners by March 2001: This planned activity had to be postponed due to several crises situations in Macedonia. The priority changed and the new focus became the preparation of an emergency plan to be applied in case of a big influx of refugees from Macedonia. This plan was drafted in cooperation with the Federation delegation in the country and other PNSs. However, some initial work on this issue has already been done. A preparatory meeting with concerned staff was held to gather information and opinions, and to clarify the process.

Objective 2 To increase the logistic and relief capacities at the central and local level to meet the relief and shelter needs of 8,000 beneficiaries according to international standards.

To reach this objective a series of activities were planned and implemented during the reporting period:

- Construction of the central warehouse in Tirana and a regional warehouse in Korca: The construction of the central warehouses in Tirana was long-delayed as the authorization from the authorities for the construction was only delivered in mid-October. The tendering process has now begun. The main constraint faced was this delay, and the problem it caused to some donors. Project extensions and new deadlines were requested and in most cases accepted. The project is now proceeding well. Regarding the construction of the regional warehouse in Korca, the project is supported by the German Red Cross (GRC). In August 2001, the project modalities were reviewed. A detailed project document has been prepared and a cooperation agreement is to be signed with GRC concerning the implementation phase of the project.
- Maintenance of two warehouse in Shkoder and in Fier and refurbishment of relief stocks: The two warehouses were regularly maintained and necessary stocks for 8,000 beneficiaries were stored. One fifth of these stocks were used (distributed to 450 people who came from Macedonia, fleeing the conflict there). The remaining part of the stock is in the process of being distributed in the frame of the social program activities because of expiry data. Measures are also being taken to replace the stock.
- Maintenance of emergency communications equipment in 12 key branches: The communication system has been regularly maintained and so far no problems have been experienced.
- Provision of adequate training to branch staff and volunteers at the local level (2 workshops in Tirana and Shkoder, five additional workshops to be provided to five local branches volunteers).

A number of training sessions during November and December with the volunteers who are part of the disaster teams of 20 Red Cross branches are planned. The volunteers will be trained according to the tasks they will have to perform in a disaster situation. The disaster teams are composed of volunteers who are supposed to deal with information issues, needs assessment, FA issues, tracing, health, relief distribution procedures and

warehouse management. Specific modules are in the process of being prepared for all these activities. While at the time of writing this objective has not been fully met, it is expected to be met by the end of the year or by early next year. In order to ensure this, every week during November and December such training is planned with the participation of all the volunteers who are members of the disaster teams. Such training will continue during the first half of next year.

Three meetings with volunteers at the branch level were organized in September and October of this year in Tirana, Lushnja, and Kukes. The purpose of these meetings was to test the volunteers capacities. Based on feedback received from these meetings, it was found that it would be useful to periodically organize similar tests and to provide specific training to the volunteers according to their specific areas of work. Two other tests will be organized in Shkoder and Korca by the end of this year.

Objective 3 To increase public awareness of disaster preparedness activities.

Posters and leaflets printed at the end of December 2000 were delivered to local branches, who then distributed them to schools and other areas identified as likely to be affected by disasters. A leaflet “Be Prepared and Not Scared” is to be printed and distributed by the end of the year. A simulation and display were organized for the public focusing on First Aid situations. As part of the DP structures of the local Red Cross branches, it was decided and planned that next year, FA and Health activities will be incorporated in disaster simulation.

Objective 4 To provide prompt intervention in meeting emergency needs according to recognized humanitarian standards. All Federation DPP modules have started to be translated into Albanian and are being used by the DP coordinators in the Red Cross branches for drafting our training modules.

Objective 5 To meet some of the long term needs of disaster affected groups, including social, psychological and health needs through increasing disaster response capacities.

To reach this objective a series of activities were planned and implemented during the reporting period:

- Awareness of the long-term needs of groups affected by disasters to be raised through campaigns targeting the public: Following the situation in Macedonia the national society changed its plans, aiming to meet the needs of the affected people from disaster situations with concrete activities aimed at coping with an eventual influx of refugees from Macedonia. All Red Cross local branches bordering Macedonia were contacted together with others and the possible location for settlement of refugees was discussed. People came from Macedonia, knocked at the doors of local Red Cross branches and were properly helped. From April to August, items from the disaster stock were distributed. These included: basic food items, blankets, mattresses and hygienic kits for 450 people. The activity involved 12 local Red Cross branches. An agreement with UNHCR in Tirana was signed aiming to support these people until the end of the year. According to this agreement the ARC would carry out the distribution of the relief items and the UNHCR would cover all expenses.
- Training of volunteers for provision of counseling to victims of disasters: According to the newly revised policy (of objective 1) of the ARC recently approved by the General Assembly, the national society staff will not be involved in the counseling of victims of disaster situations. Therefore these activities will not be implemented.

The impact of the crisis in Macedonia as well as changes in national society plans and priorities were factors which hampered or delayed the implementation of some activities. However, the majority of the objectives have been met, while others are being met at the time of writing. Together the objectives serve to reinforce the ARC effectiveness regarding local disaster intervention.

Health and Care

Objective 1 To assess the public knowledge and needs related to reproductive health and infectious diseases.

The objective was so far met through the implementation of the four planned activities:

- The collection of existing information: Within the first trimester of the year considerable information was collected relating to this issue from the Ministry of Health, health structures in the districts, and the Red Cross local branches in the 36 districts of the country.
- Design of a questionnaire: Based on the above information a questionnaire was designed and distributed to 12 districts with the purpose of evaluating the population's knowledge in the areas of reproductive health and infectious diseases.
- Establishment of assessment teams and the organization of surveys/interviews in identified local branches: A working team was set up in order to organize interviews and surveys in these districts.
- Processing of collected information and recommendations: The working team studied the collected information and drew their final conclusions. Based on these the national society has already defined the needs and the vulnerable groups to be approached. During September – October this work continued in six other districts. Contacts were also established with public health authorities and beneficiaries.

Objective 2 To increase the level of public knowledge about the risks of infectious and reproductive diseases and their prevention.

Three projects were drafted in order to implement this objective:

- Health and Reproductive Education: For this project 18 local Red Cross branches were involved and a training was held at headquarters level with the participation of 14 health coordinators from local branches. In addition, 14 training sessions for the districts were held, with the participation of 230 volunteers. The project involved 60 communes and for its implementation 3,000 posters and three kinds of leaflets were prepared and distributed, which conveyed to mothers messages about healthy child-rearing. A number of copies of the book "New Parents" were distributed which served as a good guide for providing health information to the volunteers and the beneficiaries.
- Personal Hygiene: Eighteen branches were involved. Fifteen training sessions were organized at the local level and the project was focused on conveying health information to the lower grades of elementary schools. Meetings were held at 40 schools, (mainly in villages), and about 15,000 children were the beneficiaries of the project. There were 320 volunteers involved. Five thousand posters, 10,000 leaflets and 2,800 hygienic kits were prepared and distributed. Work has continued with the training of trainers and volunteers on personal hygiene issues in nine districts of the country, in close cooperation with the American Red Cross delegation.
- Environmental Hygiene: Fourteen branches with 220 volunteers were involved. Some 25,000 leaflets, 3,000 posters and 20 banners were produced and distributed, and a TV spot was prepared and aired on both national and local television. The local branches cooperated with the local authorities and other NGOs operating locally, and to a large extent the community participated. Work has continued with the second phase of the environmental hygiene campaign in 15 districts of the country. Headquarters sent all the supporting materials to the branches, including: posters, leaflets, and banners. Cooperation with the local authorities and other NGOs has been organized, aimed at getting a large number of people to participate and to raise public awareness.
- Some additional information: The number of beneficiaries was raised by 10%. The number of volunteers was raised by 10% and the geographic coverage of the activity was enlarged by 1/3. According to the questionnaires an increased knowledge of the population relating to these issues was realized.

During September-October training for all Red Cross branches of the country with regards to the social mobilization of the population as part of the vaccination campaign against measles and rubella was organized. There were 2,500 Red Cross volunteers involved in this campaign and additionally advertising materials were produced (such as 7,000 copies of a poster, 300,000 leaflets, a TV spot broadcast on national and local TV). There has been full support of the American Red Cross delegation for this project. The vaccination program is underway.

Objective 3 To promote non-remunerated blood donation.

Four activities were planned in order to meet this objective:

- Design of a questionnaire to assess public attitudes regarding blood donation.

- Preparation of materials for a public awareness campaign.
- Organization of the blood donation public awareness campaign.
- There were 3,000 posters and 10,000 leaflets prepared and distributed.
- Branches involved will be supplied with the necessary training to implement the campaign: This activity involved 10 local branches and 120 volunteers. Meetings aimed at raising public awareness were held. Five blood days were organized. Good cooperation was established with the National Blood Center. Six other branches were involved in non-remunerated blood donation campaigns during September-October. Such activities have also been extended to universities and high schools.
- Key partners in governmental institutions will be identified: In order to find ways to improve its future strategy towards non remunerated blood donation the Health Ministry organized a workshop with participation from the WHO, the National Blood Donation Center, the Federation, and the ARC. In this workshop the sensitive issues of non- remunerated blood donation and the future attitude the government will adopt were discussed. In the end the following recommendations were presented to the government: to change the present law under which paid blood is largely encouraged. In this way it will be expected that the number of people who are selling their blood will decrease considerably; to set up a body with participants from different NGOs who are interested in this issue in order to promote non-remunerated blood donation with the aim that in the very near future non- remunerated blood donation will be the primary method of blood collection.

Objective 4 To ensure a well defined role for the ARC in meeting the health needs of the population in disaster situations.

The General Council of the ARC discussed the issue of the policies of the national society in its meeting of April 2001. It was decided that in the course of this current year some policies of the national society had to be reviewed and that of Health was planned for December 2001. It is planned that by the end of the year this policy will be drafted and approved. However, the role of health in the Disaster Preparedness and Response policy which was approved last October has been defined. In this policy the role of the health program will be focused on raising public awareness and providing information for well defined vulnerable groups. Hygienic kits for mothers and babies will be distributed, as always on the basis of the capacities of the national society.

First Aid

Objective 1 To raise public awareness of the national society's first aid program through the media and other channels and to provide first aid services to the public.

Four activities were planned to achieve this objective:

- Public information campaigns: Information campaigns in 12 Red Cross local branches on the topic of first aid activities were organized.
- Establishment of first aid training courses for the general public at twelve branches: Twelve local Red Cross branches are about to begin first aid courses for the general public. Two training programs have been produced. In branches which have planned to organize this training public announcements and registration for the courses have taken place.
- Production of television and radio advertisements on the program; celebration of national first aid day with the distribution of materials and demonstrations: a first aid spot for television broadcast is in the process of production. Volunteers under the supervision of FA instructors have organized demonstrations of FA skills and provided leaflets to the participants in public squares, schools, and beaches.
- Investigating the feasibility of developing a nationwide first aid training programme for newly licensed drivers: very little progress has been reached relating to this during the first half of the year. However during the autumn positive steps are being undertaken, and in the meantime the national society has defined the actual training program for newly licensed drivers. It has asked the new Transport Minister for a meeting where the major problems related to this important issue can be discussed. According to the legislation it will be the Ministry of Transport together with the ARC who will design the programme. It is expected that this meeting will resolve the issue of the organization of the training of newly licensed drivers and this activity shall at the same time be a fundraising one.

Objective 2 To identify at risk groups throughout Albania and to provide appropriate information and FA to these groups.

Three activities were outlined to achieve this objective:

- Organization of a nationwide workshop: A workshop was held in April to identify at risk people with the participation of 25 FA trainers from the local branches. A representative from the Ministry of Health attended this workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to prepare a questionnaire to be used for the collection of data about at risk people nationwide.
- Compilation and reporting of data: The questionnaire was distributed to the local branches to be filled in. A working group is analyzing the collected data and the final conclusions and recommendations are to be ready by the end of October.
- Dissemination of appropriate information/Training: During the months of September and October work was done to prepare the training curricula which will be used for the training of the at risk groups already identified.

Objective 3 To increase the number of trained FA instructors and volunteers throughout Albania.

Three activities were planned for this objective:

- Training of an additional 25 instructors and 360 volunteers: During this reporting period 20 new FA instructors were trained. So far 25 local Red Cross branches have trained 200 new volunteers and by the end of the year the figure will be 360.
- Refresher courses for 29 previously trained instructors: A refresher course for 25 FA instructors was organized.
- Special workshop on water rescue/ Training at branches level located in coastal areas: A FA policy has been drafted, however discussions about water rescue service are still continuing with staff and governance members. The national society policy has still not been defined and this means that further steps can not be developed. Local Red Cross branches have offered FA services at the nation's beaches, at stadiums, hospitals etc. There are 14 Red Cross branches which regularly have FA teams at sporting events in the stadiums.

Objective 4 To insure that FA training courses in Albania comply with internationally recognized standards.

Three activities were planned for this objective:

- Receive accreditation from the European standard award body.
- FA instructors and volunteers kept up-to-date regarding changes in standards with information and refresher sessions; Refresher courses with previously trained volunteers were organized in some local Red Cross branches by the instructors.
- The organization of local, regional and national FA competitions. The participation of the society in the European FA competition;

In July three regional FA competitions were organized with the participation of almost all of the Red Cross local branches. From these competitions the 6 best FA teams of the Red Cross local branches were selected. These teams competed with each other during September in Tirana . The event was well covered by the media. Simulations as part of the competition were attended by the general public who showed considerable interest in this activity. The winning team was that of the Red Cross branch of Korca. Due to events in Macedonia the European FA competition was not held.

Social Welfare

Objective 1 To make regular vulnerability assessments of the at-risk population in Albania.

Part of this objective was the VCA training which was reported on in the DPP objectives section (please see that section for details). This training was conceived to address both programs, DPP and Social. In cooperation

with the Spanish Red Cross delegation in Albania a survey on children at risk has been completed in the 36 districts of the country. For the moment all the collected information is under analysis and a final report is expected to be issued by mid November. Initially it was planned that the report would be ready earlier but due to some unforeseen circumstances a delay was incurred. This report will serve as a basis to initiate other projects addressing children at risk. Experience from the project implemented in the Red Cross branch of Durres on children at risk will also be taken under consideration while drafting new projects of this kind

Objective 2 To prioritize the identified needs of the vulnerable.

On the basis of the information collected, the implementation of the project: “Help the Lonely Elderly People” started. It will be implemented in 15 Branches. The project started on 1 October 2001. Some 1,900 beneficiaries will benefit each month by receiving a food parcel composed of: wheat flour, sugar, rice, pasta, oil and soap. Each parcel costs approximately 8 US\$. The project will last three months. The volunteers are participating in the identification of the beneficiaries, in the distribution of the food parcels, in offering various forms of support to those who are not able to come to the distribution center and collect the food parcels. Another project targeted at 2,300 beneficiaries has been planned and implemented in the 20 districts which were not included in the “Lonely Elderly People” project. The beneficiaries were from the vulnerable groups of lonely elderly people, numerous families in need with little revenue and elderly people with little revenue. The project consists of the distribution of wheat flour, oil and sugar. All necessary organizational measures have been taken and distribution will be carried out in November and December.

Objective 3 To design and implement effective projects for the clearly identified vulnerable groups. These will be a continuation of projects initiated during 2000.

During the reporting period the following projects, (all planned for in the original appeal), have been implemented:

- Soup kitchen project: 450 beneficiaries monthly in 8 Red Cross local branches. They receive lunch 5 times per week free of charge.
- Dress making courses and psychological counseling project: in 7 local branches (exceeded the plan by one branch). So far there are 380 beneficiaries (this represents 180 more than originally planned).
- The Blind and Deaf and Mute Institutes in Tirana project in cooperation with the Spanish Red Cross delegation ended in October. However, the Red Cross branch of Tirana will go on with social activities in these institutions and with training of the staff according to a plan of action in cooperation with the National Blind Association of Spain and the Ministry of Education of Albania. There are in total 128 beneficiaries in these institutions.
- Children at risk project. Implemented at two Red Cross local branches. The total number of beneficiaries: 198. In October this project also began in other districts, in Red Cross of Shkodra. These children are being offered additional class lessons with the purpose to integrate them little by little within society. The program is in conformity with the educational program of the Ministry of Education. This project is planned to be implemented in other districts of the country after the Red Cross branches have sent their proposals.
- During the summer, activity camps for more that 450 orphans from the community were organized.

The objectives in the various areas of health and care have been met or are in the process of being met. A considerable amount of activities in a wide range of areas have been carried out successfully.

Humanitarian Values

This programme was underfunded and activities were revised, canceled or adopted to the donors needs.

Objective 1 To determine the level of knowledge about the Movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent in Albania.

An image survey was conducted during the April-July period by the ARC with the support of the American Red Cross. The survey was published and has been distributed to all interested people and stakeholders. The published material was of high quality.

Objective 2 To promote IHL, the fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Movement.

The activities planned to achieve this were:

- To hold three seminars and presentations on IHL for participants from each branch of the ARC;
- Organization of promotional activities and three meetings for 75 youth volunteers on humanitarian values.

Neither activity was realized due to lack of funds.

Objective 3 To raise the profile of the Movement in general, and that of the ARC in particular, among the general public of Albania.

Four activities were planned to achieve this objective:

- Organization of promotional events at the local and national levels: In cooperation with the American Red Cross delegation a meeting with the media was organized. Journalists were invited from national and local TV and newspapers. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the media on what the Red Cross is doing in order to give them a better idea and knowledge of Red Cross activities as well as to establish a lobbying potential in these circles. The proceedings of the fifth General Assembly of the ARC which was held from 19-20 October 2001 was conveyed to the public through cooperation with the media. Four TV channels and 3 newspapers followed this important event for our national society. The activities of the national society have been reflected by the media in the whole country thanks to cooperation with the Red Cross local branches. This also occurred recently with two social programs being implemented in all national districts. Work has been conducted on the home page materials of the national society which is expected to be implemented soon. On 8 May many activities were organized for the promotion of World Red Cross Day. In order to promote Albanian public opinion and Albanian Civil Society, posters, banners and other visible materials were printed. Ten local committees have been equipped with audio-visual equipment. In total the ARC has 25 local committees that have the audio-visual equipment needed, using those the ARC branches have been organizing and disseminating information. Some 50% of the local committees have been able to register and disseminate their activities in assistance of vulnerable people.
- Production of a fifteen-minute video about the annual activities of the ARC: A competition between 5 Albanian national TV stations was arranged during November 2001 on the production of a 15 minutes video on the 80th Anniversary of the ARC. A special commission will evaluate the videos which will all be broadcast from the respective TV Channels. The Competition will end at the end of December and is organized with the support of the American Red Cross.
- Training of key national society staff having regular contacts with the media through two seminars to be held in January and May. In cooperation with the American Red Cross a training was organized with Albanian journalists about Red Cross and humanitarian action. The training was organized at the beginning of September with the participation of 15 journalists from the national media. Periodically monitoring visits of the local branches were organized, in order to give a better orientation to the local committees on information and communication issues.
- Review of the society's magazine to ensure its effectiveness as a marketing tool and as a mirror of Red Cross activities: Issues 18 and 19 of the ARC magazine were compiled and published. Together with the donor, German Red Cross, the review of the Magazine is now underway.

Impact of the Promotion of Humanitarian Values Program:

- more professional information and better communication with public opinion and structures of Albanian Society.
- local branches have increased the level and quality of information about the Red Cross and International Humanitarian Law.
- activities were better planned and better achieved .

All of this has had an influence on increasing the positive image of the ARC. Several achievements have been realized with regards to all of the planned objectives. A wide range of successful activities were carried out. The confirmation of a positive image of the ARC was a very welcome outcome.

Institutional and Resource Development

Objective 1 To strengthen the role of the governance in the development of the ARC.

Based on the new statutes, the number and composition of governance bodies will be changed at the central level of the national society. Instead of three, there will be two bodies and the frequency of their meetings will be altered to reflect the new needs. A working group will identify potential candidates from the community for election to governance organs, ensuring a more balanced representation.

During this period, three meetings of the General Council took place in Tirana. In October, the fifth General Assembly of the national society was held where, among other things, the policies of the national society for DPP, FA, fund raising and volunteers were approved. The ARC prepared the draft policies for fund-raising, staff development, volunteer management, finance, first aid, disaster response and mine awareness in order to present them at the General Assembly in October. The process was facilitated by the Development Department and the Canadian Red Cross consultant. The ongoing process of change within the ARC has also involved the Legal Documents. After the approval of the new Statutes an ad hoc commission is developing the draft of the new Regulations that will be approved by the General Council at the end of the year.

Objective 2 To design a more effective Red Cross structure and expand its training capacities.

The ARC went through a process of restructuring its Secretariat. The new structure was completed by the beginning of June. That created delays in the implementation of the foreseen projects and activities. New staff took some different responsibilities. That made necessary a new training calendar for the staff which will see implementation in September. Two training sessions were realized with the members of the General Council. The first was in March and dealt with parliamentary rules during Governance meetings. The second one in June dealt with the policy design process in ARC.

Objective 3 To ensure a better balanced representation (in terms of geography, socio-economic status, age, gender and skills) at all levels of governance.

The OD Department delegated by the OD Commission of the General Council organized a survey on the representation in all levels of governance. The survey was presented to the General Assembly and will serve as the basis for better preparation for next year's elections.

Objective 4 To establish contacts within government circles with the aim of providing financial support for humanitarian activities.

The ARC president, the head of the Federation delegation, the Head of the ICRC delegation, and the head of the ARC OD department met with the Prime-Minister. In the meeting they highlighted the need of governmental support for the ARC. Assurances were given that the issue will be in the new government agenda.

During the last 9 months the ARC reviewed the Internal Rules and Regulations and eight policies. The General Assembly is ready for the new elections at the sub-branch and branch level during 2002 with a reviewed Electoral Process.

Youth Development

Objective 1 To design a system for recruitment, retention and motivation of volunteers.

Regarding volunteer management, the process of designing the ARC Volunteer Policy has begun. This draft policy was submitted to the General Assembly and approved in October. Two regional workshops were held in

Shkodra and Pogradec with the purpose of increasing youth capacities in the organization of humanitarian activities. There were 24 participants in each workshop. These workshops helped the youth leaders with information on how to design, implement, monitor and report on projects. How to work on fund raising and improve communication and work on tolerance were other important issues treated in the workshops. The number of youth volunteers in the activities of the national society is increasing. Several projects attest it. One of them is aiming at strengthening the youth structures in the remote areas of the country. Through peer education techniques it is aimed to disseminate to youth accurate information and an increase of their life skills.

Objective 2 To initiate volunteer management training at local branches.

The level of organization of volunteers has been increased, including strengthening the volunteer network, promotion of volunteering and strengthening the capacities of the ARC.

Objective 3 To prepare reference materials for volunteers.

Due to technical difficulties the printing of the volunteer file is foreseen in December.

Objective 4 & Objective 5 To train youth volunteers at all levels, aiming to increase their capacities in communication and management of projects. To increase the number of youth that are involved in activities of the ARC.

The planned activities to achieve both objectives were:

- The organization of a national drawing competition by all local branches entitled “Children and the Red Cross” for elementary school pupils throughout Albania, from which the best drawings will be placed in an exhibition to open on 8 May (International Red Cross and Red Crescent Day). From February to May, within the framework of the activities with youth volunteers on promotion of ARC principles and philosophy the project National Competition of Drawing “Children and Red Cross” with the sub-theme “We can help” was implemented in 30 districts with the participation of children from 8-14 years old. ARC youth volunteers have organized discussions with children in schools about Red Cross Principles and activities and then we got feed back from children in drawings. Local exhibitions were opened in 30 districts. The best works were featured on the 8 May on World Red Cross Day, where we opened the National Exhibition “Children and the Red Cross”. At this event, the Diplomatic Corps, the business community, government and social institutions and the Federation and the ICRC delegations in Tirana were present. 1810 children from 120 schools and social institutions in 30 districts were participating with 3,100 drawings.
- The organization of the fifth round table for youth volunteers, representing all local branches, on the topic “Principles of the Red Cross: This activity is planned for December.
- The involvement of youth in the drug abuse prevention initiative - for which leaflets and posters will be produced and round table discussions will be organized in middle schools - to provide information on the dangerous effects of drug use. Ten branches were involved in a number of activities regarding drug abuse prevention in cooperation with middle schools. More than 800 young people participated in the activities. As 2001 is the Year of Volunteers and the ARC is the biggest humanitarian organization in Albania with activity in the area of volunteer work, in order to promote this year in Albanian civic society and to recognize the engagement of volunteers, the ARC has printed a poster on volunteering. An important priority is increasing the membership of the ARC. For this year our goal is to make 3 % of the population Red Cross Members. With this in mind, 90,000 membership cards have been printed and are ready to be distributed to local committees.

Coordination and Management

Objective 1 To maintain the momentum of the organizational development programme within the ARC.

The activity to achieve this was:

- Federation delegates will work within the ARC to continue developing the society’s capacities, in coordination with other members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement working in Albania on

programme implementation. During the reporting period, a delegate was brought from the Canadian Red Cross at the request of ARC to work specifically with a joint governance/management working group on developing policies for each department. Tracing was deliberately not considered, as the American Red Cross are bringing a specialist delegate (now arrived) in order to work for one year inside the ARC tracing department, hand in hand with the ICRC. Input will be sought from this person from General Council. Policies were drafted in various options and formats, with the General Council approving all of those ready at the end of September. The ARC have approached the Canadian Red Cross and asked if this delegate may be made available for short periods over the next 4 - 5 years. The Canadian Red Cross have indicated their acceptance of the principle. Technical training and visits to National Societies or delegations outside Albania has continued for ARC staff. A visit to Macedonia was undertaken in mid-September with ARC senior staff and a member of the Federation "central warehouse commission" in order to look at the process and work involved in a similar project being carried out by the Macedonia Delegation on behalf of Macedonia Red Cross. It is to be hoped that permission for this project will be granted soon. It is fully funded, but deadlines are already strained due to the rather long time this permission has taken (already 8 months). Strenuous efforts are, naturally, continuously made to ensure this permission is obtained.

Objective 2 To improve coordination and compatibility of PNS programmes with the ARC strategy and provide administrative support to them.

Planned activities to achieve this included: the Federation's delegation in Tirana will continue to serve all Participating National Societies with administrative matters (i.e., bank accounts, personnel contract issues, mobile phone service, customs clearing, VAT refunds and light vehicle needs). All of these services will allow PNSs to focus on programme activities in a cost effective manner. Also, no registration of PNSs will be required with the government prior to beginning their work as they will operate under the already signed Status Agreement.

The head of the Federation's information systems made a short visit to the ARC and the delegation in July in order to visit the field and to provide some very welcome advice on the systems needed by the ARC as they move through the transition of restructuring and in their efforts to achieve the goals of the strategy 2000 - 2004. A workshop hosted by the MOH/WHO was held in Tirana during August with specialist technical representation from the Secretariat in Geneva. Time will tell if the MOH supported by WHO may be more successful in this field than hitherto. In recent years, the voluntary non remunerated blood schemes (the ARC is a major player) has seen little success; approximately 100 units only per year.

The German and Spanish Red Cross have both received new country chief's during the period under review. As the Federation and the ARC with PNSs progress through the planning stages for next year, there is greater convergence in programme areas. However, there remains in the view of the Federation delegation and the leadership of the ARC a variance which remains too large. This view is not shared by some of the PNS. Geneva Secretariat has approved the head of delegations' to carry out private research early in the new year into adding to the ongoing work of finding a solution for this apparently difficult problem.

In light of the nature of the PNS delegations, sectoral coordination meetings take place, usually within the relevant Ministries. All of these are attended by PNS and/or ARC representatives. Albania remains a poor country and the needs are, of course, much larger than the capacities available among humanitarian agencies and even Government departments supported by specialist agencies of the UN. Due to coordination, however, the efforts which are undertaken, indicate no overlaps and the gaps in support are at least planned.

The ARC are clear regarding the future of the Federation country delegation role in 2002. A full time presence is not needed; support will be provided by the Budapest regional delegation and specialists who will come for short missions. There will be a federation representative in Macedonia who will be the focal point for Albania and spend one week per month in Albania, in order to serve the needs of PNS.

Outstanding needs

The appeal coverage of over 90% reflects a large carryover of 1999 and 2000 funds, but fresh funding in 2001 has been very limited. As agreed at the partnership meeting in 2000, this balance will be used as an income generator facility for the ARC.

For further details please contact: Penny Elghady, Phone: 41 22 730 4319; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: elghady@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Albania						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.53/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			28.12.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				4'316'101		TOTAL COVERAGE 91.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				3'038'285		
BRITISH - RC		145'393	USD	242'516	22.11.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
CANADIAN - RC		3'226	CAD	3'527	30.03.2001	DELEGATION & RELIEF
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		105'013	EUR	160'155	17.05.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		539'374	NOK	99'052	12.12.2001	ASSISTANCE TO ELDERLY, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
SWEDISH - RC		600'000	SEK	101'100	30.03.01	HEALTH PROGRAMME, ID/RD PROGRAMME
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'200'000	SEK	196'440	07.06.01	HEALTH & CARE, ID/RD, COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3'841'075	CHF	89.0%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Canada	Delegate(s)			9'363		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			30'883		
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			54'866		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				95'112	CHF	2.2%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SPANISH - RC/ECHO		300'000	EUR	441'000	09.02.01	ALBANIA RC, INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN AT RISK, BILATERAL
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				441'000	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PAL001, PAL 002, PAL005, PAL006, PAL007, PAL008, PAL010, PAL015, PAL 020, PAL110, PAL160, PAL 505, PAL						