

ANNUAL REPORT



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

May 2002

Appeal No. 01.53/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 4,316,101

Operational Developments

In 2001 the economic situation in Albania remained precarious despite the political stability of the past three years. Remittances from émigrés was the main source of income for many Albanian families. The health system was in a state of virtual collapse, and pensioners in particular experienced enormous difficulties. Despite the grim economic outlook, the Albanian Red Cross (ARC) accomplished a great deal over the year, and moreover, underwent a series of organizational changes. An opinion poll confirmed its position as the country's principal humanitarian organization. The ARC demonstrated effective and capable responses when faced with several crisis situations, and developed stronger relationships with various partner national societies. Headquarters and branches were restructured: twelve large branches were created out of the previous thirty-five local committees. A new secretary general was elected at the end of the year. In 1999 the Federation had a large delegation in Albania, and collaborated closely with the ICRC and numerous partner national societies. Since then operations were gradually scaled down. The Federation organized a well planned exit strategy, and handed over activities to the Albanian Red Cross, while partner national societies in the country continued their joint projects with the ARC. By the end of 2001, the Albanian Red Cross was in a position of strength, capable of building on the successes of the previous year.

Disaster Response

Objective 1

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

Two staff and governance meetings were organized to discuss the revision of the national society's policy 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.

In light of the volatile security situation in the region, particularly in neighbouring Macedonia, the Albanian national society drafted an emergency contingency plan to be applied in the event of a large influx of refugees from Macedonia. This plan was drawn up in cooperation with the Federation's delegation in the country and other participating national societies (PNSs). As a result, work on drafting a national DP plan had to be postponed, although



preliminary meetings were held on the development of such a plan. The Federation's web site was a valuable resource for the formulation of DP activities and plans. The DP programme was supported by the Finnish Red Cross.

Objective 2

To increase the logistics and relief capacities at central and local levels, to meet the relief and shelter needs of 8,000 beneficiaries, according to international standards.

Some Quick Facts and Figures about Albania

- ◆ 3.1 million population
- ◆ GDP per capita of just US\$ 1,094
- ◆ 16.8 per cent of the population live below the poverty level
- ◆ 223,000 persons are officially unemployed, but only 21,000 families receive unemployment assistance
- ◆ 50 years of communist rule ended in 1991
- ◆ spring of 1999 saw some 465,000 Kosovo refugees enter the country
- ◆ highest child mortality rate in Europe (33 per 1,000 live births)

On October 19 2001 the Albanian Red Cross received the long delayed permission for the construction of a central warehouse. Construction began in accordance with the contract signed between the Federation and the construction company. Completion is expected by the end of June 2002.

The long delay in receiving permission for construction of the warehouse was a source of problems for some donors. Deadlines had to be postponed - this affected the Norwegian, Belgian, Danish, Finnish, and Hellenic Red Cross Societies. The Albanian Red Cross made a partial contribution to the total construction costs from its reserve in Geneva. At the time of writing, project costs were fully covered.

Another regional warehouse, supported by the German Red Cross (GRC), was planned for Korca. In August 2001 the GRC requested more details on the warehouse before a cooperation agreement could be signed. An agreement was reached on further cooperation.

Two other regional warehouses (in Fier and Shkodra) were maintained. Until the end of October 2001 the Albanian Red Cross DP stock was stored in these warehouses. As the food items stocked there had limited shelf lives, a social project to benefit elderly people and families (vulnerable groups approved by the national society) was designed. The food items from the warehouses were sent to local Red Cross branches in 20 districts for distribution. Part of this stock had earlier been given to 450 people who arrived from Macedonia. Stock was replenished through an established tendering process. The wave mail communication system was regularly maintained and to date no problems have surfaced. Voice communication facilities were also installed using the same network. This considerably increased the national society's communication capacities.

The process of creating a volunteer structure at local Red Cross level to respond in emergency situations began. By year's end 20 branch level Red Cross teams were established. Disaster teams were composed of volunteers who dealt with information issues, first aid, tracing, health, and relief. In November and December 2001 five local workshops were organized. Topics discussed included the collecting of information from a disaster area and preparing and sending a disaster report.

Four meetings with volunteers at branch level were organized in September and December in Tirana, Lushnja, Pogradec and Kukes. During these meetings simulation tests were conducted, as well as the clarification of roles and responsibilities.

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 entitled "Be Prepared and Not Scared" was printed and distributed. Simulations and displays on first aid were organized.

Objective 4

To provide prompt intervention in meeting emergency needs according to recognized humanitarian standards.

All the Federation's policies on DP training were translated into Albanian and used in drafting and adapting ARC modules. Copies of these DP documents were distributed to participants in training workshops.

Issues relating to the initial needs assessment were discussed during the vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) held in November 2001, attended by secretaries from 12 local branches. In parallel, visits were organized to local branch offices and a questionnaire was drawn up in case an emergency plan needed to be jointly drafted. By year's end, local branches were better trained and able to make an initial needs assessment in their respective areas in case of disaster.

Objective 5

To meet some of the long-term needs of disaster affected groups, including social, psychological and health needs through increasing disaster response capacity. Awareness of the long-term needs of groups affected by disasters will be raised through campaigns targeting the public, to be organized between May and December 2001. In addition, 25 volunteers will be trained in June 2001 to provide counseling to victims of disaster.

In the wake of the situation in Macedonia the national society changed its training plan in order to better meet the needs of those affected. Concrete activities, aimed at coping with an eventual influx of refugees from Macedonia, were developed. All local Red Cross branches bordering Macedonia were contacted, together with others in which refugees might settle. An agreement with the UNHCR in Tirana was signed under which the Albanian Red Cross would carry out the distribution of relief items and the UNHCR would cover all expenses.

In the meantime the national society's policy in disaster situations was drafted and approved by the General Assembly. According to this policy the Albanian Red Cross will not be involved in counseling victims of disaster situations.

The objectives of the disaster preparedness programme were met. As a result, the Albanian Red Cross now has a more clearly defined role in the event of a disaster and sufficient logistics and relief capacities to meet the needs of 8,000 beneficiaries in a timely manner. There was clearly an increased understanding of disaster preparedness.

Health and Care

The difficult economic situation in Albania since the end of communist rule has resulted in enormous needs in health. The wide variety of these needs is a specific feature of Albanian life. A number of infectious diseases, the deterioration of the health infrastructure (especially in remote villages),

internal and external migration of the population, a lack of adequate equipment at hospitals and in ambulances, low motivation of health personnel, problems in child nutrition, accidents during crisis situations, low pensions and the poverty of the population kept the national society focused firmly on its programmes in the health sector.

Objective 1

To assess public knowledge and needs related to reproductive health and infectious diseases. This objective was achieved through:

- ◆ *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 local Red Cross branches in all 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 organization of surveys/interviews in identified local branches:* a working team was set up in order to organize interviews, surveys etc. in certain districts;
- ◆ *processing of collected information and making recommendations:* the team assessed the information collected and drew up their recommendations. Based on these the national society defined its needs and the vulnerable groups to be targeted. A report, based on all the information collected, was presented to governance for evaluation.

During September to October this activity 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 and prevention of reproductive and infectious diseases.

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 session was held at headquarters level with the participation of 14 health coordinators from local branches. In addition, 14 training sessions were organized in the districts, with the participation of 230 volunteers. The project involved 60 communes; 3,000 posters and three kinds of leaflets were prepared and distributed, with messages on healthy child care. A number of copies of the book "New Parents" were distributed which served as a guide for providing health information to volunteers and the beneficiaries.

People fleeing Macedonia soon began knocking at the doors of local Red Cross branches, and they were duly helped. From April until August the disaster stock was used to distribute basic food items, blankets, mattresses and hygienic kits to 450 people in 12 Red Cross branches.

-Personal Hygiene;

Eighteen branches were involved. Fifteen training sessions were organized at the local level and the project focused on conveying health information to the lower grades of elementary schools. Meetings were held at 40 schools, (mainly in villages), and some 15,000 children benefited from the project. A total of 320 volunteers participated. Five thousand posters, 10,000 leaflets and 2,800 hygienic kits were prepared and distributed.

Work continued with the training of trainers and volunteers on basic health education in nine districts, in close cooperation with the American Red Cross.

-Environmental Hygiene;

Fourteen branches with 220 volunteers participated in this project. 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 authorities and with NGOs in the region, and community participation was quite high.

Work continued on the second phase of the environmental hygiene campaign in 15 additional districts. National headquarters sent materials to the branches including posters, leaflets, banners etc. Cooperation with the local authorities and with NGOs was organized, and aimed to have as wide a participation as possible and to raise public awareness. The American Red Cross delegation fully supported this project. A vaccination campaign was successfully conducted in 2001. Some 85 per cent of the planned number (500,000) of women were vaccinated. A task force conducted an evaluation of the work of the volunteers during the vaccination campaign.

Objective 3

To promote non-remunerated blood donations.

Four activities were planned in order to meet this objective:

-Design of a questionnaire to assess public attitudes regarding blood donation: This activity was not carried out.

-Preparation of materials for a public awareness campaign: A total of 3,000 posters and 10,000 leaflets were prepared and distributed.

- Organization of a blood donation public awareness campaign: This activity involved 10 local branches and 120 volunteers. Meetings aimed at raising public awareness were held. Five blood days were organized, and good cooperation was established with the National Blood Center.

-Branches involved will be supplied with the necessary training to implement the campaign:

Six other branches were involved in non-remunerated blood donation campaigns during September to October. These activities were also extended to universities and high schools.

-Key partners in governmental institutions will be identified:

In order to improve its 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 Albanian Red Cross. In this workshop the sensitive issues of non-remunerated blood donation and the government's future plans on this issue were discussed. The following recommendations were presented to the government:

- The current law, under which remunerated blood donations were encouraged, should be revised. The number of paid blood donors should then decrease considerably;

-Participants from different NGOs interested in this issue should set up a group to promote non-remunerated blood donation.

The number of volunteers increased by 15 per cent and the number of blood days and blood donors for this reporting period was higher than in 2000.

Objective 4

To ensure a well defined role for the Albanian Red Cross in meeting health needs of the population in disaster situations.

The General Council of the Albanian Red Cross discussed the national society's policies at a meeting in April. It was decided that in the course of the year certain policies, including health issues had to be reviewed: this was planned for December 2001. Due to unexpected circumstances this was postponed to May 2002. The role of health in the disaster preparedness and response policy which was approved in October 2001 was defined. In this policy the health programme will focus on raising public awareness and providing information for well defined vulnerable groups.

Positive results were clearly seen in the public health programme. Information was collected on the health situation and on the most serious health problems. Red Cross health activities were expanded, resulting in an increased number of new beneficiaries, volunteers and non-remunerated blood donors. Information was collected on the national society's capacities to provide first aid in disaster situations.

First Aid

Objective 1

To raise public awareness of the national society's first aid programme through the media and other channels and to provide first aid-services to the public. Activities implemented:

- ◆ *Organization of public information campaigns at the local level with supporting information materials (such as posters and leaflets);* Information campaigns in 12 Red Cross local branches on the topic of first-aid activities were organized.
- ◆ *The setting up of first-aid training courses for the general public in a minimum of 12 branches:* by year's end twelve local Red Cross branches were about to begin first-aid courses for the general public. Two training programmes were developed and registration for the courses began.
- ◆ *Production of a television and radio advertisement on the programme for national broadcasting over a three-month period (April to June 2001); celebration of international First Aid Day on 16 September 2001 with the distribution of first-aid information and demonstrations of first-aid skills organized in public places throughout the country:* A first-aid spot for television broadcast was produced. Volunteers under the supervision of FA instructors organized demonstrations of FA skills and provided leaflets to the participants in public squares, schools, beaches etc. A working group composed of volunteers and first-aid trainers prepared a message to be addressed to the public through TV broadcasts in order to raise their awareness of FA and subsequently approach the Red Cross for training. The spot was broadcast from December onwards.
- ◆ *Investigating the feasibility of developing a nationwide first-aid training programme for new drivers:* Very little progress was made on this issue. Local and parliamentary elections organized in quick succession did not leave enough time for activities in this area.

The national society defined a training programme for drivers who had recently received their permits, and held a meeting with the new Transport Minister to discuss the major problems related to this issue.



Objective 2

To identify at-risk groups throughout Albania and to provide appropriate information and first aid to these groups.

Three activities were outlined to achieve this objective:

-Organization of a nationwide workshop:

A workshop was held in April to identify people at risk 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 people at risk nationwide.

-Compilation and reporting of data:

The questionnaire was distributed to the local branches. A working group analysed the collected data and conclusions and recommendations were 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 groups at risk 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:

Twenty new FA instructors were trained, while 25 local Red Cross branches trained 360 new volunteers.

-Refresher courses for 29 previously trained instructors:

A refresher course for 25 FA instructors was organized.

-Special workshop on water rescue/ training at branch level located in coastal areas:

The governance of the national society approved a FA policy for the water rescue service. This meant that the national society had a clearly identified strategy for this service, and in cooperation with the German Red Cross activities in this field will be increased. Local Red Cross branches offered FA services at beaches, in stadiums, at hospitals etc. A total of 14 Red Cross branches regularly had FA teams at major sporting events.

Objective 4

To ensure that first-aid training courses in Albania comply with internationally recognized standards. Efforts will be made to receive accreditation from the European standard award body.

Three activities were planned for this objective:

1.-Receive accreditation from the European standard award body;

2.-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.

3.-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 best six FA teams from the local branches were selected. These teams competed with each other in September in Tirana and the event was well covered by the media. The Red Cross branch in Korca won the competition.

By and large, the objectives mentioned above were met. As a result, the local branches of the Albanian Red Cross were strengthened through their participation in first-aid activities. More branches offered first-aid courses to the public, and an assessment was carried out to identify at risk groups at the local level. Regional and national first-aid competitions were organized, while the water rescue programme made positive steps forward.

Social Welfare

Objective 1

To make regular vulnerability assessments of at risk populations in Albania. Training materials for trainers will be developed and 50 local volunteers and staff will be trained at sessions in Tirana and Fier on capacity and vulnerability assessment methodology. A total of 100 volunteers from all branches will be trained in vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) methodology to carry out such assessments in each district.

This activity was carried out in close cooperation with the DP program. The Albanian Red Cross's concept for the vulnerability capacity assessment (VCA) was far from what this new methodology

actually implies. It was originally thought that through a short training session, the methodology could be introduced. However, after consultation with experts the plan was changed. The first VCA took place from 1 to 3 October 2001, while the second session was held from 26-27 November 2001. Technical support was provided by the Federation's regional delegation in Budapest.

This training was conceived as part of both the DP and social programmes

Objective 2

To prioritize the identified needs of the vulnerable.

On the basis of information collected, the implementation of the project: "Help Lonely Elderly People" started and was implemented in 15 branches. The project began on 1 October 2001. Some 2,000 beneficiaries received a monthly food parcel composed of: wheat flour, sugar, rice, pasta, oil and soap. Each parcel cost approximately US\$ 8. Volunteers participated in the identification of the beneficiaries, in the distribution of the food parcels, and in offering support to those who were unable to come to the distribution center and collect the food parcels.

Another project targeted at 2,300 beneficiaries was planned and implemented in the 20 districts that were not included in the "Lonely Elderly People" project. The beneficiaries were mostly elderly people, or numerous families with little revenue. Under the project, wheat flour, oil and sugar were distributed in November and December.

In cooperation with the Spanish Red Cross delegation in Albania a survey on children at risk was completed in all 36 districts of the country. The final report was completed in mid November and served as a basis for similar projects.

Objective 3

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

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

-*Soup Kitchen project:* 450 beneficiaries monthly in 8 local Red Cross branches. They received lunch five times per week free of charge.

-*Dress making courses and psychological counseling project:* in seven local branches (one branch more than planned). By year's end there were 380 beneficiaries (180 more than originally planned).

-*Institutes for the Blind, Deaf and Mute in Tirana:* this project, in cooperation with the Spanish Red Cross delegation, ended in October. However, the Red Cross branch in Tirana will continue with social activities in these institutions and with training of staff according to a plan of action in cooperation with the National Blind Association of Spain and the Ministry of Education of Albania. A total of 128 beneficiaries were assisted.

-*Children at risk project:* Implemented at two local Red Cross branches, for 198 beneficiaries. In October this project also began in other districts, with the Shkodra Red Cross. Children were offered additional lessons with the purpose of gradually integrating them into society. The programme was carried out together with the Ministry of Education.

-In summer, *activity camps* for more than 450 orphans were organized.

The objectives in the various areas of health and care were largely achieved.

Humanitarian Values

This programme was under funded and activities had to be reviewed, while others were canceled or in some cases adapted to the demands of donors.

Objective 1

To determine the level of knowledge of the Movement in Albania.

An image survey was conducted from April to July by the Albanian Red Cross with the support of the American Red Cross. The survey was published and was distributed to interested persons and stakeholders.

Objective 2

To promote IHL, the Fundamental Principles and the humanitarian values of the Movement.

The activities planned to achieve this were:

-To hold three seminars and presentations on International Humanitarian Law (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 carried out due to lack of funds.

Objective 3

To raise the profile of the Movement in general, and that of the Albanian Red Cross in particular, among the general public in 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 was organized with the media. Journalists were invited from national and local TV and newspapers. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the media of Red Cross activities and to lobby in these circles. The proceedings of the fifth General Assembly of the Albanian Red Cross which was held from 19-20 October 2001 were conveyed to the public through cooperation with the media. Four TV channels and three newspapers followed the event. The activities of the national society were reflected in the media across the country thanks to cooperation with local Red Cross branches. This also occurred when two social programmes were implemented in all national districts. On 8 May many activities were organized for the promotion of World Red Cross Day. In order to foster awareness of the Movement in Albanian civil society, posters, banners and other visible materials were produced. Ten local committees were equipped with audio-visual equipment, bringing the total number of ARC committees with such equipment to 25.

-Production of a fifteen-minute video on the activities of the ARC:

A competition between five Albanian national TV stations was arranged in November 2001 for the production of a 15 minute video to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the ARC. The competition ended in December and was organized with the support of the American Red Cross.

-Training of key national society staff with regular media contacts through two seminars to be held in January and May.

In cooperation with the American Red Cross a training session was organized on the Red Cross and its humanitarian activities. The training was organized at the beginning of September and was attended by 15 journalists from the national media.

Visits to the local branches were organized, in order to give orientations to the local committees on Red Cross 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 Albanian Red Cross magazine were compiled and published.

Together with the German Red Cross, a review of the magazine was carried out.

Impact of the promotion of the humanitarian values programme:

- ◆ more professional information and better communication with public opinion structures in 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 the above served to raise the profile of the Albanian Red Cross.

Organizational Development

Objective 1

To strengthen the role of governance in the development of the Albanian Red Cross.

During the reporting period, four meetings of the General Council were held in Tirana. In October, the fifth General Assembly of the national society took place. At the General Assembly, the policies of the national society for DPP, FA, fund-raising and volunteers were approved. The Albanian Red Cross had prepared draft policies for fund-raising, staff, development, volunteer management, finance, first aid, disaster response and mine awareness. The process was facilitated by the Development Department and a consultant from the Canadian Red Cross. The ongoing process of change within the Albanian Red Cross also involved its legal base. After new ARC statutes were approved, an ad hoc commission drafted revised regulations that were passed 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 Albanian Red Cross went through a process of restructuring its secretariat. The new structure was completed by the beginning of June. This created delays in the implementation of projects and activities, as new staff assumed their responsibilities. The newly created departments began developing teams through training sessions in planning, project management and facilitation skills.

Programme Design and Implementation

Objective 1

To evaluate resources at the central and local level to effectively design, implement and evaluate programmes and projects.

In cooperation with the American Red Cross delegation in Tirana a branch profile questionnaire was drafted and sent to all branches. The branches responded, and the information was returned to the secretariat where it was compiled and transferred to CD-rom. At the same time, all the information available regarding the branches of the national society was stored in a data base.

Objective 2

To increase skills of staff and volunteers in designing, implementing and evaluating programmes and projects.

Twelve training sessions were held on project cycle management, organized both at headquarters and branch level. Twenty six branches submitted projects. An additional fourteen branches used the logframe approach, while other branches reworked their documents applying this technology. The branch technical file was also completed. The aim is to include in one file all basic technical documents needed for Red Cross branches. Its contents include: an ARC historical overview; branch functioning and connection with sub-branches; governance, volunteer management, needs assessment, priority target groups for ARC, ARC programmes, project cycle management, a yearly calendar of activities, accountability in the ARC, administration rules of the ARC, the ARC's role in a disaster, training techniques, fundraising etc.

Resource development program

Objective 1

To design a realistic funding and marketing plan for the national society.

This objective was not fully achieved.

Objective 2

To train Albanian Red Cross staff and volunteers at the branch level to design local fund-raising and marketing plans and to develop and maintain relations with donors.

After analysis the major fund-raising activities were given different directions. In Kukes, training courses were established in foreign languages, computer courses, swimming courses etc. In the district of Fier computer courses were established, as well as foreign language classes, computer courses and swimming lessons in Vlora, with other different courses in Durres and Tirana.



Objective 3

To develop fund-raising activities targeting the local business community and the general public.

In Appeal 2001 one activity mentioned was the evaluation of fund-raising activities in local branches. To this end, in December a meeting was organized in Durres, with the participation of 12 local branch secretaries.

A food bank activity was established in Kukes. A new activity, donation cards, was organized and the total amount of money generated during the last three months of 2001 was US\$ 5,000. A great deal of work was done on raising public awareness of Albanian Red Cross activities. Membership payments and pin campaigns were the most regular fund-raising activities in all local branches. In November - December two regional workshops on Training for Trainers were held with the aim of increasing the capacity of local branches to organize training for their fundraising activities. Fifty volunteers from nine districts participated in these workshops. These activities were the first steps in establishing the new training system of the Albania Red Cross.

Youth Development

Objective 1

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

The general council of the national society established a volunteer management sub commission who reported directly to the OD commission. The OD commission was responsible for initiating and working on the design of a draft policy for volunteer management. This draft policy was submitted to the General Assembly of the national society and approved in October 2001.

Five regional workshops were held aimed at increasing youth capacities in the ARC's humanitarian activities. There were 24 participants in each workshop. These workshops helped the youth leaders to design, implement, monitor and report on projects. Fund-raising, improving communications and activities to promote tolerance were other important issues dealt with in the workshops.

The number of youth volunteers in the activities of the national society increased. To this end, a project aimed at strengthening youth structures in remote areas of the country was established.

Objective 2

To initiate volunteer management training at local branches.

Over the course of the year, the level of organization of volunteers increased, the volunteer network was strengthened, as was the capacity of the ARC to recruit volunteers. To this end, volunteer management training was organized.

Objective 3

To prepare reference material for volunteers.

Two posters on volunteerism, as well as caps and pens were prepared for the International Year of Volunteerism.

Objectives 4 and 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 in activities of the Albanian Red Cross.

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, a national art competition whose theme was "Children and the Red Cross" was implemented in 30 districts with the participation of children from 8-14 years old. ARC youth volunteers organized discussions with children in schools on Red Cross principles and activities and then got feedback from children in drawings. Local exhibitions opened in 30 districts. The best works were featured on 8 May on World Red Cross Day, when the national exhibition began. The diplomatic corps, the business community, government and social institutions and the Federation and ICRC delegations in Tirana were present at the opening event. A total of 1,810 children from 120 schools and social institutions in 30 districts participated 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".

-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 dangers of drugs.

Ten branches were involved in a number of activities regarding drug abuse prevention in middle schools. More than 800 young people participated in these activities.

The year 2001 was the Year of Volunteers and it was deemed important to underscore the fact that the Albanian Red Cross was the biggest voluntary humanitarian organization in the country.

The Albanian Red Cross initiated (in November 2001) an awareness campaign for the International Day of Volunteerism. Thirteen international and national NGOs joined the ARC in this initiative. The

ARC worked in close collaboration on this campaign with the UN's office in Albania. On 5 December, tents depicting voluntary activities were set up in 12 districts in the main squares of the cities. Different materials were displayed such as leaflets, posters, photos, films, as well as concrete volunteering activities such as community involvement in cleaning up the local environment, planting trees, presentation of first-aid techniques etc.

An important priority was to increase the membership of the Albanian Red Cross. This year's goal was to enroll three per cent of the population in the Red Cross. To this end, 90,000 membership cards were printed and 50,000 cards distributed.

A training of trainers course was organized in September.

In November and December the volunteer management programme organized a regional workshop on Training for Trainers. The aim was to increase the capacity of local branches to organize training for their volunteers, staff and board members. A total of 25 volunteers from five districts participated. These activities were the first steps in establishing the new training system of the Albanian Red Cross.

Coordination and Management

Objective 1

To maintain the momentum of the organizational development programmes within the ARC.

In 2001, the ARC was in the final year of a transition period. The General Assembly of the Albanian Red Cross was held on 19-20 October, was well attended and set the scene for the next 12 months. The Assembly accepted that a nomination committee be established from Tirana to assist in both branch elections and staff appointments. This was a major step forward. Policies referred to in the previous report were accepted by the assembly.

The secretary general of the Albanian Red Cross announced her retirement with a departure date of February or March 2002. During the reporting period the process of selecting and appointing a new secretary general was completed. This was of course a sensitive process for the governance of the ARC but was nonetheless transparent and rapid. The new secretary general was appointed at a meeting of the General Council in late December.

Excellent news was received during the Assembly: permission for the central DP warehouse was granted. Obtaining this permission took exactly 364 days. The legal and logistics departments in Geneva gave full support to the speedy resolution of a tender which was valued at more than US\$ 500,000 and the commission on contracts quickly approved it in order to give some momentum to this long stalled project.

The Albanian Red Cross began an overhaul of its financial system, as planned. The loan of the Federation CODA license ceased as agreed on December 31st. A new set up was established regarding the Federation's exit strategy. A Federation delegate based in Macedonia will support the ARC, and a Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up between the national society and the Federation (regional delegation in Budapest) regarding the practicalities of income flow and reporting.

The Albanian Red Cross was clear regarding the future of the role of a country delegation in 2002. A full time presence was not needed, according to the ARC, but rather specialists who would come for short missions. The new delegate, based in Skopje, will start his mission in the first week of January 2002. He will be the focal point for Albania and will spend one week per month in the country in order to serve the needs of PNS and monitor the warehouse project. How to provide the best service to the PNS was the subject of several discussions, but an agreement was reached whereby the delegate will be assisted by an Albanian staff member, based within the PNS office complex.

Objective 2

To improve coordination and compatibility of PNS programmes with the Albanian Red Cross strategy working in Albania and provide administrative support to them.

Discussions were held with the head of the French Red Cross delegation and the Spanish Red Cross programme coordinator regarding capacity building for the Albanian Red Cross in 2002. By year's end, agreements on various activities had been reached. The United Arab Emirates Red Crescent representative in Albania attended the General Assembly and was warmly welcomed. During a subsequent meeting attended by the UAE Red Crescent, the Albanian Red Cross and the Federation's delegation, the UAE Red Crescent made a commitment to become more closely involved in the activities of the Movement.

As mentioned in previous reports, close cooperation continued with the PNS delegations; sectoral coordination meetings took place, usually within the relevant Ministries. All of these were attended by PNS and/or Albanian Red Cross representatives. Albania remains a poor country and its needs are much larger than the capacities available in humanitarian agencies and even government departments supported by specialist agencies of the UN. However, among the various agencies in Albania, efforts were made to avoid a duplication of efforts.

Conclusions

The past year saw the Albanian Red Cross achieve a more positive image in the eyes of the general public and the government. Capacities were increased at all levels, from the local branches to headquarters, in areas such as assessment, project planning, disaster preparedness and response, health education and first aid. Volunteers increased their understanding of the role of governance and relations with management. Moreover, there was a clear improvement in the management structures at headquarters, while the preparatory work was undertaken for changes to the structure of the national society.

The appeal coverage of over 90 per cent reflected a large carryover of 1999 and 2000 funds, but fresh funding in 2001 was very limited. As agreed at the partnership meeting in 2000, this balance will be used as an income generator facility for the ARC. The aim of the Federation is to further support the Albanian Red Cross in order to build a well-functioning national society.

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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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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Interim report	
Annual report	X
Final report	

Appeal No & title: 01.53/2001 Albania

Period: year 2001

Project(s): AL001, AL002, AL005, AL006, AL007, AL008, AL15, AL110, AL160, AL515

Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED INCOME 2001, CASH, KIND, SERVICES

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Reallocations	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	4,316,101				
less					
Cash brought forward	1,632,875				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	2,683,226				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
British Red Cross (DNGB)	129,400				129,400
Canadian Red Cross (DNCA)	3,527				3,527
Donor - Unidentified (D000)	100				100
Finnish Govt.via Finnish Red Cross (DGNFI)	78,511				78,511
Finnish Red Cross (DNFI)	22,435				22,435
ICRC-IFRC Kosovo (DM0409)	1,887,967				1,887,967
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNNO2)	90,291				90,291
Norwegian Red Cross - Ex Yugo (DNN02)	10,032				10,032
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross (DGNSE)	189,900				189,900
Swedish Red Cross (DNSE)	101,100				101,100
Canada				9,363	9,363
Sweden				30,883	30,883
Great Britain				54,866	54,866
TOTAL	2,513,264			95,112	2,608,376

II - Balance of funds

Opening balance	1,632,875
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	2,513,264
CASH EXPENDITURE	-1,594,015

CASH BALANCE	2,552,124

Appeal No & title: 01.53/2001 Albania

Period: year 2001

Project(s): AL001, AL002, AL005, AL006, AL007, AL008, AL15, AL110, AL160, AL515

Currency: CHF

III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	Appeal Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction		3,206			3,206	-3,206
Clothing & Textiles		74,205			74,205	-74,205
Food/Seeds	447,774	405,710			405,710	42,064
Water						
Medical & First Aid	26,902					26,902
Teaching materials	129,420	8,343			8,343	121,077
Utensils & Tools	2,528					2,528
Other relief supplies	49,694	11,329			11,329	38,365
Sub-Total	656,318	502,792			502,792	153,525
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings	1,159,126	20,956			20,956	1,138,169
Vehicles						
Computers & Telecom equip.	29,278	17,981			17,981	11,297
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures	137,751	16,714			16,714	121,037
Sub-Total	1,326,155	55,652			55,652	1,270,503
<u>TRANSPORT & STORAGE</u>						
	153,322	186,891			186,891	-33,569
Sub-Total	153,322	186,891			186,891	-33,569
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	224,008	93,727		95,112	188,839	35,169
Personnel (local staff)	851,001	336,884			336,884	514,117
Training						
Sub-Total	1,075,009	430,611		95,112	525,723	549,286
<u>GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts	140,456	30,193			30,193	110,262
Travel & related expenses	101,895	47,890			47,890	54,006
Information expenses	112,085	69,185			69,185	42,900
Administrative expenses	276,091	90,250			90,250	185,841
External workshops & Seminars		274			274	-274
Sub-Total	630,527	237,792			237,792	392,734
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>						
Programme management	291,035	110,495			110,495	180,540
Technical services	87,121	33,083			33,083	54,038
Professional services	96,616	36,699			36,699	59,917
Sub-Total	474,771	180,276			180,276	294,495
Operational provisions						
Transfers to National Societies						
TOTAL BUDGET	4,316,101	1,594,015		95,112	1,689,127	2,626,975

Consumption rate: Expenditures versus income 65%
Expenditures versus budget 39%