

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

CENTRAL EUROPE REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

4 January 2006

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA066; Programme Update no.3

Period covered: 1 July 2005 to 21 December 2005;

Appeal target: CHF 2,260,819 (USD 1,794,085 or EURO 1,463,180)
or CHF 1,800,925 (without the Core Budget)

Appeal coverage: 110.4%; ([click here for live updated of contributions](#))

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Romania: Floods emergency appeal issued in April 2005, and minor emergency appeal issued in July 2005; Bulgaria: Floods minor emergency appeals issued in June and August 2005; Bosnia & Herzegovina minor emergency appeal issued July and December 2005; Serbia and Montenegro emergency appeal issued in April 2005, Annual Appeals for Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Programme summary:

The second half of the year continued to see disaster relief operations in Bulgaria and Romania grow in size, as subsequent waves of flooding hit both countries in August and September. Two further disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) allocations were approved for the operation in Romania and one for Bulgaria. With human resource capacities focused on responding to the emergencies, many planned activities in other programme areas such as organizational development, health and care, and participatory community development were put on hold. Additional resources were requested from the regional disaster response team (RDRT), and further missions were organized to the Romanian RC for RDRT members to support logistics and disaster relief capacity building and response efforts.

National societies were keen to build on the successes of national fundraising campaigns following the tsunami disaster early in 2005. Unprecedented amounts were raised from the general public by the Romanian and Bulgarian Red Cross (some 800,000 EURO in each country) for the victims of the flooding within their national borders. However donor fatigue had set in by early autumn, when it proved impossible to reach similar

fundraising goals for the victims of the Pakistan earthquake. This was a similar experience throughout the region. Although financial contributions were limited, the region was again able to contribute in terms of trained and experienced professionals. The regional disaster response team was called on to deploy logistical or health staff, and at the beginning of December a doctor was deployed from Romania to work with the French RC field hospital in Pakistan for two months. A further two RDRT members from the region are set to join the Pakistan operation early in the New Year.

With major contributions to the appeal confirmed by early June – including Swedish govt/RC, Norwegian govt / RC, Finnish and British RC funding – activities were able to continue according to plan in the second half of the year. However, the figure of 110.4% appeal coverage does not show the imbalance in funding between programmes, and does not indicate under funding in some key areas. Attention needs to be drawn to the case of the regional health and care programme. With the support of only one major donor – the Norwegian Red Cross – the health/care programme activities risk being limited to HIV/AIDS and TB activities. Funding is urgently required to ensure that the health / care coordinator can continue in her mission and support national society work, particularly with the emergence of Avian Influenza, and in ensuring safe blood supply, the integration of psycho-social support elements in health and disaster preparedness programmes, as well as building capacities in emergency health response. Funding is also urgently sought for *The Bridge* magazine, to ensure the next issue can be produced in time for the Moscow Conference in April 2006.

To take forward the work on developing guidelines for best practice in working with Roma communities, a consultant was contracted by the Danish RC and visited Federation delegations in the region as well as national societies, to draw together the expertise and experience of the participatory community development (PCD) practitioners. PCD was introduced to two new national societies – the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Croatian Red Cross – with training in the former and plans to begin in the latter in early 2006.

Following a knowledge sharing meeting in 2004 for national societies involved in planned change processes, the regional delegation organized a similar meeting but with a much wider scope. Some 40 participants from 15 countries gathered in Budapest in early December to share their knowledge, through self-organized working group sessions run by ‘lead’ national societies. The meeting embraced participants from outside the region, including Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The International Federation’s General Assembly and the subsequent Movement Council of Delegates took place in Seoul in November 2005. Federation and national society preparations in the region included a second leaders meeting for governance and management, which was held in Budapest in October 2005. National Society leaders provided valuable input to the planning process for the Federation’s future in Europe – including Moscow Conference preparations, as well as looking at what ‘Our Federation of the Future’ could mean in a European context. A second edition of *The Bridge* magazine in 2005 was finalized in time for distribution at Seoul, with a focus on health and care issues – particularly TB as one of the key threats to health in the region.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation’s website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

Within the Federation planning process, the Regional Delegation worked on a four-year strategy covering the years 2006-9, which was launched as part of the two year Regional Appeal for Central Europe 2006-7 in December. This strategy sets out a clear vision for the future of the delegation as a resource centre, focusing on those areas in which it has built capacity, knowledge, expertise and its reputation over recent years, and encouraging national societies to take on focal roles in areas where they have developed specific expertise.

With the change in the geographical coverage of the Regional Delegation as of 1 January 2005, much work has gone into looking at the consequences of this for the future role and functions of the RD. It is clear that the national societies in the new accession countries (Bulgaria and Romania) as well as Croatia can benefit from the experience of the first round of accession which led to EU membership for eight countries in the region on 1 May 2004. Turning potential new EU funding opportunities into longer term secured funding sources is just one dimension of the EU debate, and one which requires an appropriate level of capacity to manage large scale programmes. Opportunities to tap into funding at a regional level in country may be more realistic for national societies. There is also discussion about the role national societies can play as a lead in civil society in preparing for the EU – comprising the issues of meeting standards and normatives, networking and partnership development. The RD is continuing to plan with national societies and will use a concrete call for proposals from an EU funding source as a focus for any training in project proposal writing at a national society level.

In 2005, the main donors of the delegation continue to be the Swedish Red Cross, Swedish government, Norwegian government, Norwegian Red Cross, the Federation's Capacity Building Fund, Finnish Red Cross, British Red Cross and Icelandic Red Cross. The most pressing funding issue is the future of the regional health and care programme. As with the other programme areas, the regional delegation has moved away from the traditional delegate managed programme set up, to relying on regionally recruited staff. This also requires a change in traditional funding structures – particularly how to ensure long term funding for key core programme staff – which are now paid from programme funds rather than by the traditionally 'richer' partner National Societies (PNS) as delegates. The regional health/care programme faces serious limitations, with funding for HIV/AIDS and TB related issues secured until February 2006. However, the programme has no secured funding beyond that date.

1. Health and care

Goal: NS in South Central Europe are viable partners of their respective authorities in improving the health and social situation of communities.

During the second half of 2005, the regional Health and Care (H&C) programme continued to support the NS in South Central Europe, building NS capacity and strengthening networks and collaboration.

A key emerging issue has been the appearance of the Avian Influenza (AI) among wild birds and poultry in two countries in the region: Romania and Croatia. The RD has provided support to NS and coordinated information sharing. During a meeting of the Romanian RC branches, organized in October 2005 to look at disaster management and logistics issues, the regional health/care coordinator presented the RC role in case of a pandemic. All governments in the region have prepared plans of action in case of an Avian Influenza pandemic, and the Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro has defined roles and responsibilities in case of a pandemic, as a partner to the responsible government body.

Objective:

The capacity of the national societies of South Central Europe to provide quality health and care services to the most vulnerable is increased.

Progress/Achievements

Expected Result 1: By the end of 2005, all NS will have health and care activities which integrate HIV/AIDS, TB (where relevant) elements and Drug Prevention, including harm reduction activities for intravenous (IV) drug users, appropriately and based on clear strategic development and funding plans, and making best use of regional networks.

NS in the region continue with their efforts to strengthen the response to HIV/AIDS and contribute to Tuberculosis control in their respective countries. During the second half of the year, the NS have presented short-term plans for HIV and TB and have been supported by the RD, on a small scale, in the realization of the projects.

The Albania RC is integrating the issue of TB in their regular peer education activities on HIV/AIDS and health promotion, putting the accent on the importance of conducting TB treatment and early case detection. The Macedonian RC is continuing to build the capacity of the local RC branches to conduct information classes among youth groups on HIV/AIDS and drug related harm. As part of the RC of Serbia and Montenegro, the Serbian RC has started a TB control programme among persons hosted in collective centers around the country and in Roma communities in five towns. The project is carried out in partnership with the government and funds are secured from the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria. (GFATM). The Romanian RC is continuing its partnership with the government in the TB control project in three counties and has been working on modification of the MDR TB project. A new proposal for 2006 will contain an element of psychological support to MDR TB patients.

The harm reduction programme is another field where NS in the region are very strongly involved. A leader in the region is the Croatian RC, whose project coordinator Dr. Zovko facilitated the training for national societies from Central Asia at Villa Maraini foundation, during October 2005. The Croatian RC programme is carried out in two communities in Croatia with a needle exchange programme and information sharing with different stakeholders (police representatives, doctors, teachers) around the country.

The Bulgarian RC is continuing in strong partnership with their government in a harm reduction programme in the five biggest towns in the country. The latest programme in the community of Stara Zagora is showing positive developments in networking with other NGOs and institutions. The Macedonian RC held training for staff and key volunteers as well as for youth volunteers from the local RC branches, to introduce the program throughout the NS and to map future possibilities. Advocacy is under way with different stakeholders (newspapers, governmental centers for methadone treatment, NGOs). The Latvian RC is continuing the programme with the opening of a new youth centre that will consist of a needle exchange point, psychological therapy and support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), drug users and their families, and has presented a plan for the further development of activities.

During the reporting period, newly approved funds from the Global Fund were confirmed for countries in the region, as follows:

Albania Tuberculosis USD877 685

Albania HIV/AIDS USD2 502 858

Bosnia and Herzegovina HIV/AIDS USD4 832 387

Macedonia Tuberculosis USD1 442 489

Montenegro HIV/AIDS USD1 604 606

Against this background, the national societies in the region have their work cut out. None of the NS have a defined role in implementation as yet, although the Macedonian and BiH NS are members of the country coordination mechanism (CCM). In the first half of 2006, the NS will have to lobby strongly for inclusion in the projects supported by the Global Fund and will have to approach their Ministries of Health with strong proposals on behalf of vulnerable groups. The RD is working with the NS health and care coordinators to provide Federation guidelines and policies in the field of health, HIV and TB. Cross regional cooperation will also be supported by the RD at the beginning of 2006, offering NS to visit other TB and HIV programmes implemented by other NS in the Europe region, with the aim of strengthening capacity to recognize vulnerabilities and act accordingly. Discussions were held with the World Health Organisation (WHO) officer for TB in the Balkan region. Common directions for work were discussed and WHO support for the NS in their respective CCM was clearly defined. Much work remains to be done to ensure that NS work in the field of HIV/AIDS and TB is carried out in a clear, long term strategic framework and in close cooperation with government organizations and NGOs.

Expected Result 2: By the end of 2005, all NS will have an awareness and advocacy plan to fight stigma, social exclusion and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS&TB.

NS in the region have produced a plan for involvement in the global anti-stigma campaign that was presented by the Federation during the last ERNA meeting in Kiev, Ukraine in September 2005. During the meeting, presentations by different governmental and non-governmental organizations raised the issue of building stronger partnerships at a national level and greater involvement in regional networking. The RD is supporting NS in establishing further contacts with the organizations of PLWHA in their respective countries to increase their involvement in RC planning and implementation. All national societies in the region celebrated World AIDS Day on 1 December. Activities ranged from candle marches, to peer education activities and the production of promotional and educational materials.

Expected Result 3: By the end of 2005, the Participatory Community Development (PCD) methodology is integrated with health and social welfare activities, working with various vulnerable groups e.g. Roma, elderly people, victims and family members of the trafficking in human beings etc.

The integration of the PCD methodology with health and care programmes proceeds slowly. It seems that the NSs need more clarifications in order to start effective integration. This issue was discussed during the Health Coordinators and PCD Coordinators' meeting in early July. The main outcome of the meeting was the recognition of the need to strengthen their planning processes and prioritisation of activities. As a result of long-term discussions on the use of PCD elements in other programmes and strong lobbying by the PCD coordinators in their own NS, participatory methodology was introduced in two programme in the Serbian RC: the TB control and home care programmes. The Macedonian RC have implemented this methodology to develop the health promotion programme, and discussions continue as to how to ensure even better involvement of communities in programme planning.

Expected Result 4: By the end of 2005, the regional task force has started to co-ordinate the activities on Voluntary, Non-remunerated Blood Donor Recruitment. The success stories (best practices) for raising the awareness for safe blood supply will be available on the web site, which is updated by the regional task force.



Figure 1: Measuring Blood Pressure, Romanian RC

Due to the lack of ownership of the NSs the regional task force on Voluntary, Non-remunerated Blood Donor Recruitment is not working effectively. As the task force members were not interested to take responsibility to host and update the web site, efforts to re-establish the task force and the web site have been reduced. It seems that the NSs actively promote safe blood supply on a national level but regular collaboration with other NSs in the region is not a priority. More emphasis has therefore been put on strengthening NS capacity to develop their national blood donation programmes in partnership with the relevant ministries and blood transfusion centres. The RD is discussing with the health dpt in Geneva about the possibility of a new training of trainers

on voluntary non-remunerated programming, to be created in cooperation with WHO. One of the biggest constraints to further development of this programme is the lack of funding needed to provide space for the NS and their respective authorities to conduct joint planning and training.

Expected Result 5: By the end of 2005, all NS will have Community Based First Aid (CBFA) activities based on clear strategic development and funding plans.

Discussions took place with the NS of Romania and Serbia & Montenegro, to map already existing CBFA activities, and to promote further planning in this area. All of the NS have prioritised commercial first aid and standardization of the training curriculum as the priority in the field of FA. The RD will provide further support to national societies in strategic planning and in how to recognize vulnerability in the field of FA, so that national societies can adapt their approaches to reach those groups most in need of First Aid training.

Expected Result 6: By the end of 2005, all NS have a system in place to provide Psychological Support services integrated with other health and care and disaster management activities (e.g. HIV/AIDS, TB, trafficking in human beings etc.)

The Regional Delegation continues to promote the inclusion of the components of Psychological Support in all health and care activities. The Macedonian RC has developed and conducted training in psychological support for RC staff in the headquarters and in local RC branches, which have been exposed to work in different disaster situations. The Romanian RC has revised the project for multi-drug resistant (MDR) tuberculosis and psychological support is a main component provided to the patients in the continuation phase of the treatment.

The Hungarian RC and the RD hosted the annual meeting of the European Network of Psychological Support (ENPS) in Budapest in September 2005. This was an opportunity for the NS to exchange experience across the regions and learn best practices.

Constraints:

In all countries, the NS are in contact with their ministries of health and, when present, also the co-coordinating body or agency for the response to HIV/AIDS and TB (where relevant). In many countries of the region, generating political commitment and will towards HIV/AIDS, TB and drug prevention activities has been slow. The political situation (e.g. old vs. new government) creates difficulties for NS to maintain the connections with local authorities.

Some NS (e.g. Albanian RC, RC of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Romanian RC) have a small number of staff at the headquarters restricting the opportunities for communication and coordination of activities in the country. In addition, project planning, implementation and evaluation require human resources at the headquarters. However, Red Cross Youth Departments and the volunteers have the enthusiasm and interest to plan and implement comprehensive HIV/AIDS, TB and Drug Prevention programmes.

Increased attention will be given to developing a profile for Health in Emergencies in the region and encouraging NS disaster management (DM) and Health departments to plan and work more closely together, prior to, during and after disaster or emergency situations. Integration of this kind will require time and attention as well as specific capacity building. The flood disaster response operations clearly showed a need for capacity building and awareness in this area.

The funding situation for the regional health and care programme is decreasing, and at present does not allow for support to NS on a large scale. In 2006 due to their status in the EU accession process, the Bulgarian RC and Romanian RC will continue to face difficulties, as previous sources of funding are no longer accessible. This challenge remains particularly for Romanian RC to maintain and develop its health and care programmes.

2. Disaster Management

Goal:

The efficiency and effectiveness of national societies in the region in their response to natural or man-made disasters is increased.

Objective:

Disaster response capacity of the national societies in the region is strengthened through the development of disaster preparedness plans and a regional disaster management strategy, including a contingency plan and regional cooperation.

The regional disaster response capacity continued to be tested during the last 6 months of the year, with flooding continuing in the region – predominantly in Bulgaria and Romania in early autumn, but also hitting Bosnia and Herzegovina in December. The regional disaster management coordinator has played a key role in coordinating regional disaster response team (RDRT) support where needs have outstripped capacity and in applying for support from the Secretariat’s Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and launching appeals where needed. RDRT members continued to be deployed throughout the autumn to assist the Romanian RC.

Country	Type of Disaster	Response	Time and Targets	RC action
Albania	Heavy snowfalls	DREF – USD 50,000	January-February 500 families for 1 month	Food and hygiene distribution
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Heavy snowfalls	DREF - EURO 20,257	January – February 770 families for 1 month	Relief distribution
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Floods	DREF – CHF 44,307	July 1,750 families for 1 month	Food and hygiene parcels
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Floods	DREF CHF 25,093	December 950 families for 1 month	Food and hygiene parcels
Bulgaria	Floods	Minor Emergency/DREF CHF 92,666	June 1,250 families for 1 month	Basic non-food items
Bulgaria	Floods	Minor Emergency/DREF CHF 219,809	August	Basic non-food items
Romania	Floods	Emergency Appeal CHF 1,055,000, including DREF	April 1,200 families for 6 months	Water, food and basic non-food items.
Romania	Floods	DREF/Minor Emergency: CHF 240,938,	July Up to 2,300 beneficiaries for 1 month	Non food items
Romania	Floods	DREF	September	RDRT deployment
Serbia & Montenegro	Heavy snowfalls	DREF CHF 113,910	February – March 2,600 families for 1 month	Food and hygiene parcels North/west Montenegro was particularly hard hit as was south west Serbia
Serbia & Montenegro	Floods	Emergency Appeal CHF 496,310, including DREF	April 4,000 beneficiaries for 6 months	Food and basic non-food items.

[<click here for Europe programme page to reach all above reports>](#)

Progress/Achievements against expected results:

Expected Result 1: By the end of 2005, all national societies in the region have updated their disaster preparedness (DP) plans, including contingency plans, within their respective national contexts.

Floods occurred in Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, and Macedonia during July, August and September. The floods in Croatia and Macedonia affected few settlements and were not as serious as those in Romania and Bulgaria. The National Societies of Croatia and Macedonia, in cooperation with Civil Protection and local authorities, responded effectively and in accordance with their DP plans. Romania and Bulgaria were faced with new waves of floods while still responding to the consequences of previous waves. These disaster situations showed the strengths and weaknesses of DP plans and provided ideas about what should be improved and changed in the near future in order to make disaster response much more effective.

National fundraising efforts for the victims of flooding were very successful in Romania and Bulgaria, with significant donations from local and national companies in both countries. This has shown the strength of the

Romanian and Bulgarian Red Cross to raise local contributions and the trust the national societies have established amongst the general public and corporate sector.

Expected Result 2: By the end of 2005, the regional disaster management plan is in place. In addition, disaster response mechanisms are in place at the regional delegation enabling it to be ready for prompt action.

RDRT mission Romania

On the request of the Romanian RC, the RD Budapest deployed 3 RDRT teams for missions in Romania (15 days for each mission). The aim of the mission was to assist the Romanian Red Cross in development of the relief operation, to join the Romanian RC team in new assessments, to provide technical support and advice in the post-emergency phase, and to establish contact and coordination with local authorities and other organizations involved in disaster response.

On 19-20 October, the third RDRT mission held a DM workshop for the Romanian Red Cross branch directors. The aim of the workshop was to present to the branch directors basic International Federation standards and procedures in emergency relief operations. The workshop also gave time and space to talk and discuss about their experience and lessons learnt from the floods operation. Feedback from the workshop was very good: the Romanian Red Cross branch directors were very satisfied with topics of the workshop – finding them interesting and useful. A further RDRT mission will be deployed to Romania early in the new year.

In addition, information on the Romania and Bulgaria floods and disaster response activities in those countries has been regularly shared with the Stability Pact DPPI Programme Manager.

Regional Wat/San training in Serbia and Montenegro

The Austrian Red Cross organised specialized training on water purification units (Berkefeld Units) for the Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross Society from 18 – 24 September 2005 in Mladenovac. The RD Budapest supported participation of candidates from the Macedonian RC and Israel. Thanks to the excellent cooperation with the Austrian RC and water/sanitation trainings that they have held in the region, our region has water/sanitation trained staff located in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia and Bulgaria and on whose expertise the region can count in case of need.

Expected Result 3 Close cooperation with the regional health and care, communication and organisational development programmes establishes a disaster management plan within national societies

During the knowledge sharing meeting held in Budapest in December 2005, a number of key DM issues were presented and discussions facilitated by national societies in the working group sessions. The issues discussed included: capacity building in emergency situations, fundraising in disaster situations – for national operations and for international operations. The participants were predominantly from organisational development or communications departments and backgrounds. It is hoped that the discussions will lead to an increased understanding by other departments for the work of the disaster management teams and vice-versa.

Expected Result 4: The regional disaster response team (RDRT) staffing has been refreshed through training of new members and follow up training of old members by the end of 2005. Basic equipment has been purchased.

The Regional Disaster Response Team refresher course took place in the Serbian Red Cross Training Center “Divljana”, Nis, Serbia and Montenegro, from 10-13 November 2005. There were 48 participants from 12 countries, of which 38 participants from Central Europe NSs and 10 participants from Ankara and South Caucasus Region. The RD Budapest invited Ankara RD to send some participants from its region to the RDRT refresher course. As a result, we had participants from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Israel and Turkey. The facilitators were the Regional DM coordinator from RD Budapest and experienced DM coordinators from Central Europe NSs. The Regional Programme coordinator from Ankara RD joined the group of facilitators and gave his contribution as well.

The refresher course was divided into two parts. The first part consisted of an assessment and plan of action exercise, while the second part was devoted to camp management. The assessment exercise was organised in Bela Palanka and Pirot towns, in cooperation with local Red Cross branches, local authorities, police and civil protection. RDRT members faced different scenarios such as traffic accidents, problems with the local police and

bandits on the road while they were making assessments in the field. These unexpected situations required additional skills in First Aid and communication. The Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross Society provided necessary equipment and assistance for the camp management exercise.

The region has responded to calls for support from the International Federation operation in Pakistan following the devastating earthquake in October. One RDRT member from Romania, a medical doctor by profession, was deployed on 1 December. Her mission in Pakistan will last until 1 February 2006. A second RDRT group will be deployed to the Pakistan operation in January.

Expected Result 5: The regional disaster management programme is throughout 2005 providing continued support to national societies in their work with the Stability Pact DPPI.

A DPPI regional meeting was held in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, from 20-21 October 2005. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Republic of Serbia. It was chaired by Ambassador Janez Premoze, Chair of WTIII and DPPI. In addition to DPPI member countries, two donor countries (Norway and Switzerland) participated at the meeting as well as members of the DPPI Advisory Committee (such as the International Federation and UNDP).

The objective of the Regional DPPI Meeting, was to discuss the future role of the DPPI, especially during emergencies; further regionalisation of the initiative, including the future status of the DPPI Secretariat and a need for a new Institutional Legal Framework which defines the participation of Member States in terms of financial resources and personnel; project facilitation and implementation in 2005, and the outline of the DPPI Work Plan 2006 activities, including the need for a mid-term review of the Disaster Management Training Programme.

The Regional Meeting discussed the proposals by the Governments of Romania and of Serbia and Montenegro to strengthen the role of DPPI to prepare for and respond to disasters in South Eastern Europe (SEE). The Meeting unanimously subscribed to the need to strengthen regional cooperation on disaster preparedness, prevention and response.

In this context the existence of a number of regional emergency response mechanisms, with the support of international partners, such as NATO, Federation, UN-OCHA and the EU Community Mechanism for Cooperation in Civil Protection Assistance and Interventions (MIC) was acknowledged. The Regional Meeting recommended that SEE Governments should make optimal use of these mechanisms and recommended that such mechanisms should be easily accessible to responsible authorities from all SEE countries. Complementary to regionalization efforts, the Disaster Management Training Project aimed at building-up the human capacity and capability of the Civil Protection/Disaster Prevention Agencies in the field of disaster preparedness, prevention and management will remain one of the strong focus of DPPI in 2006. In 2006 additional efforts will be utilized for the facilitation and coordination of the development, fund raising and implementation of the projects initiated and proposed by the countries from the region resulting in the establishment of joint response mechanisms at regional or local level, standards harmonization, regional legal and procedural agreements and an increased focus on prevention issues. Cooperation with other international initiatives, organizations and agencies will be improved. Information dissemination, programme promotion and public outreach will be enhanced with an aim of raising general public knowledge and awareness of natural and man-made Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative in the South Eastern Europe.

The legal status, structure and political support for the DPPI was discussed, including the sufficiency of the Bucharest Declaration and necessity to develop a new Legal Institutional Framework for DPPI, as well as a need for bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements to facilitate and regulate bilateral and multilateral regional cooperation in the area of disaster preparedness, prevention and management. The "Draft Agreement between State Union of Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina on Cooperation in Natural and Man-made Disaster Protection" was also presented.

Expected Result 6: By the end of 2005, the Regional Delegation based on a community approach will have established a network of trainers in the region to support the use of VCA and PCD methodologies in NS.

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) Forum

The disaster management department from the Secretariat in Geneva organised a VCA Forum in Sutomore, Serbia and Montenegro, from 7-12 October 2005. It was attended by 23 participants from eight National Societies and

Federation delegations and offices. Besides the participants from the 6 NS and Federation delegations and offices of the Central Europe region, representatives from Turkish Red Crescent, Armenian Red Cross, Minsk delegation and Baku delegation also participated. The aim of the Forum was to gather VCA and PCD practitioners from different NS, to revise VCA documents and to discuss the NS' VCA/PCD presentations of best practice and case studies. An additional benefit of the meeting was the intense sharing of ideas and expertise between the participants. All participants found the meeting extremely valuable in comparing and sharing their experiences, with a great deal of learning going on. The meeting adopted a highly participatory form, with sharing of facilitation and reporting.

Expected Result 7: The Regional disaster management programme is throughout 2005 supporting the national societies in developing the communities' capacity to mitigate the impact of natural and manmade disasters when they occur.

The possibility for cross learning between the participatory community development methodology and VCA was made clear during the Forum mentioned in section 6 above. The RD is encouraging NS to use PCD elements in all programme planning, design and implementation in order to address communities directly and together to work to reduce vulnerability.

Expected Result 8: The regional disaster management programme will support national societies in establishing contacts with relevant programmes within the EU (Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania)

Although no proposals have been submitted for EU funding this year, the issue of funding for the accession countries - Bulgaria and Romania – has been raised at appropriate forums including the meeting of national coordinators at the RC/EU Office in Brussels. This issue has particularly impacted on the ability of key donor national societies to contribute to the flood relief operations in both countries. The possibility of accessing EU funding directly through the governments in Romania and Bulgaria has been discussed with the national society staff. EU funding is now available directly to the countries through structural funds managed by the relevant government ministries and bodies. Successful fundraising in this new set-up will depend on national society capacity to develop relationships and partnerships with the relevant departments and the ability to position the national society well as the structural fund mechanisms are being set up. The national societies are being encouraged to talk with the EU delegations in their own countries and to take up the issues with key government partners.

Expected Result 9: By the end of 2005, all national societies have a system in place to have psychological support services integrated with other health and care and disaster management activities

The importance of integrating psychological support services with ongoing health/care and disaster management activities was again raised during the European Network of Psychological Support (ENPS) conference, which was held in Budapest in September. Best practice and learning from the tsunami operation were presented by a delegate currently working in Sri Lanka but formerly from the region.

3. Humanitarian Values

This section has been incorporated into section no 5 as it was for the Appeal 2004.

4. Organisational Development

Goal: Well functioning National Societies providing quality services based on clear mission and actively contributing to the development of Civil Society.

4. 1 Objective: National Societies capacity in leadership, programme management, organizational, financial and resource development skills has been increased.

In December 2005, the regional delegation organized a knowledge-sharing meeting, attended by over 40 participants from some 15 countries in the region of Central Europe and beyond. The meeting drew on the knowledge sharing meeting organized in 2004 for key staff and governance involved in the change processes in the Polish, Latvian and Romanian RC. Colleagues from the Slovenian RC joined them in 2004. The success of the 2004 meeting led to the organization of a similar meeting on a larger scale, to include more participants and to embrace more issues. National societies were requested to show their interest to share and interest to learn best

practice in a range of organizational, resource and programme development areas. Based on interest and experience, individual national societies led working group sessions over a 1.5 day period. The open and participatory nature of the meeting led to very frank and transparent discussion of the challenges faced and the possible solutions and risks involved. The final half-day was devoted to looking at how national societies could take a focal point role in particular areas of expertise, and how we can cover areas where experience or resources are lacking in the region.

Progress/Achievements

Expected result 1: National Societies governance and management have improved skills to lead and contribute to major change processes (currently Latvia, Poland, Romania).

Long-term capacity building support to the Romanian Red Cross formerly ended in July 2005. However plans have been made to utilize remaining funds from the secretariat's capacity building fund (CBF) support. Due to delays in implementation because of the focus on the floods operation, these activities will be carried out early in 2006.

Romanian RC

The Romanian RC (RRC) is coming to the end of a 3-year programme funded by the Secretariat's Capacity Building Fund. Discussions are continuing about how to approach a new phase of sustainable cooperation with national and international partners. Maintaining momentum and planning the future direction for development will be the focus in the coming months. Although the capacity of the RRC to lead the change process has significantly increased over the past 3 years, the national society still faces a number of internal issues – including staff retention – which need to be addressed. An open, transparent and honest relationship built on trust has been developed between RRC governance and management and international partners. The Steering Committee has been a key vehicle for this. RD support has been in the form of regular communication, information sharing, advice and organizing consultancy missions. The programme has been well managed and monitored by the national society and reporting – both narrative and financial – has been timely, clear and an excellent basis for planning next steps.

Latvian RC

Progress in the Latvian RC (LRC) has continued, according to the plan of action and the leadership and management have been a leading force. Communication and dialogue has remained open, transparent and honest between the national society and the RD. Part of the support has been in organizing consultancy arrangements where appropriate. At the beginning of the year the volunteer management development consultant working with the Secretariat in Geneva visited the Latvian RC, to work on the elements of a new volunteer management programme. The RD has also supported in other areas (fundraising, leadership training) developing at the same time its role as a resource centre, and matching information, experience and people with the national society's needs. On the recommendation of the RD, the LRC Secretary General participated at the leadership-training event organized by the Secretariat in Geneva. The LRC organisational and branch development coordinator successfully completed the effective writing training course supported by the RD. The Steering Committee is used as a monitoring mechanism of the change process, and meetings have taken place at regular intervals. However, the committee could have a greater impact by having a broader composition from both within and outside the national society. The LRC is seriously considering this recommendation to include external and Movement partners including the ICRC.

Major achievements per expected results during the second half of year 2005:

- ❑ The Manual for Latvian RC branch leaders is being organized as a ring folder containing relevant materials to achieve characteristics of a well functioning Latvian RC branch (approved in 2004).
- ❑ Case studies on different programmes are being collected with the expectation of gathering 15 case studies.
- ❑ Branches have been introduced to findings of the semi-annual report, challenges in reporting and planning for 2006.
- ❑ Branches have been introduced to a pilot Fundraising project "Gold rinse" successfully implemented by Daugavpils branch as an experience to be further developed as a national fundraising campaign. Four branches will organize their own "gold rinse" campaigns by the end of 2005.

- ❑ Branches have received regular information on available project funding, and support in preparing project proposals.
- ❑ Two branches have started new cooperation with twinning partners with the Swedish RC, they have received support in planning the cooperation and communication. Existing twinning cooperations have been updated with agreements and reporting mechanisms, in November a review seminar took place for branches having cooperation with Swedish RC.
- ❑ Four branches are planning fundraising campaigns to be implemented by the end of 2005. Three branches will collect money at schools; one will collect money at municipality institutions. Money will be collected through different activities with the aim to support first aid activities, camp for children at social risk, lunches for children coming from poor families and other.
- ❑ Within the aim of developing Volunteer Recruitment system, Volunteer job descriptions and volunteer management regulations are being developed and coordinated with branches on volunteer positions that need job descriptions elaborated by LRC HQ.
- ❑ HQ has been supporting recruitment of branch managers in five branches.
- ❑ 11 branches have carried out VCA assessments in their local communities. 9 branches have reported, 2 of the branches are requesting prolongation of reporting deadline.
- ❑ PPP manual has been produced in Latvian language and sent to all participants of PPP trainings in 2004 and 2005.
- ❑ LRC Youth has received funding for 1 macro project in partnership with Italian RC in HIV/AIDS prevention and harm reduction field and 1 project for fighting violence amongst youth. Funding for both project comes from EU PHARE grant.
- ❑ LRC is participating in European project for Developing European First Aid Manual, led by the Belgian RC.

The Latvian Red Cross prepared an application for the third year in a row to CBF multi-year grant. Consultation with Regional Delegation was made prior to final version of the application.

Polish RC

After delays in implementation of the planned change process and major internal changes at the end of 2004, the new top management of the Polish Red Cross have reoriented the process and significantly increased the capacity to lead the process. Following key changes in staff and governance - including Director General and Vice-president - the NS Statutes have been revised (in accordance with Federation guidelines) introducing some new provisions related to the separation of governance and management, the role of the Director General and clearer roles and responsibilities at all layers of the Polish Red Cross network. These initiatives reflect a significant development in the national society's commitment to, and ownership of, the process. The process also now has broader support within both the headquarters and the branches. Some crucial and difficult decisions have been made – specifically in regard to the financial situation of some regional branches. Financial recovery plans for a number of regional branches and the headquarters is now the focus of both governance and management of the NS. Regular consultations with branches and visits to branches are now in place.

There have been some delays in implementation of other objectives in the plan, due to reorientation of the process and a need to broaden commitment and ownership throughout the national society. This has also been a learning process for the new management and corrections have been made regarding the finance development project and the tendering procedure for purchasing hard and soft ware for a unified chart of accounts. The structure and set-up of the headquarters has undergone some changes to develop a more departmental approach. New job descriptions have been developed for HQ staff and human resource development support will continue throughout the year.

The RD has been active through the process, advising and acting as a resource centre. The open and transparent relationship with the new management reflects the confidence and trust established. The RD has supported three key staff to participate in the 6-month correspondence effective writing training course, to further improve skills in this area. The Steering Committee of the change process has proved to be a useful and dynamic monitoring mechanism. The representation of major international partners on the Steering Committee has been helpful, enabling very live and open discussions together with key actors from the Polish Red Cross.

At the end of 2005 the Polish Red Cross General Assembly elected a new Board, Council of representatives and President. Subsequently a new Director General will be appointed. After a lot of internal uncertainty and an indication that some mismanagement of funds exists at the level of regional branches, actions were undertaken by the current Director General and HQ. However, it is uncertain how the new Leadership will approach these problems.

Bearing in mind the ongoing change process and some moves forward in the direction of the objectives of OD/CB process it is important to continue to work closely with the new leadership of the Polish Red Cross to ensure further the ongoing change process.

Major achievements during the second half of year 2005 as per expected results:

- ❑ During the period inspection visits in four regional branches were carried out: Zachodniopomorski (Szczecin), Kujawsko-Pomorski (Bydgoszcz), Mazowiecki (Warszawa) and Malopolski (Kraków). Due to obstacles and resistance from the part of members of the board and staff of the branch office of the PRC Mazowiecki RB, the inspection was not successful and thus the branch was suspended by the National Board (on October 11). During the inspection visit in Malopolski RB the progress in implementation of a regional recovery plan was monitored.
- ❑ In July the National Board established two teams: on the restructuring of finances and on organizational and legal changes. As a result of the work of the former, a draft of a 'Financial system of the Polish RC' was created.
- ❑ On September 13, the Board decided to merge the two teams with Programme Commission and Consultation Team on the OD Programme into a single Commission on the restructuring of the PRC in terms of programmes, organization and finances (resolution no. 450/2005). The chairperson of the Commission is Dr. Elzbieta Mikos-Skuza.
- ❑ In September, work on the integrated chart of accounts and corresponding documents (inter alia instruction on the flow of documents) was finalized. On August 10 a contract with ComArch on pre-installation assessment was signed. Pre-installation assessment has as its objective to gather all relevant data to prepare a customized version of the accounting software, unified for all units. During the assessment, the work of the accounting departments of the headquarters and regional branches will be analyzed. Three meetings with ComArch were held. During the meetings further details concerning terms and conditions were negotiated. On September 20, a training on VAT for 40 accountants from HQ, RBs and LBs with their own book-keeping was held in Warsaw.
- ❑ A unified 'Regulation on employment and remuneration of PRC staff' was drafted in August and September in the PRC HQ. It was approved by the National Board on September 13.
- ❑ Out of 55 applicants 19 PRC employees (13 from HQ, 4 RB, 2 LB) were selected for English courses. Offers of language schools were chosen. Selected employees were tested in language skills.
- ❑ The Program Commission gathered and analyzed information from 11 regional and 145 local branches that responded to the questionnaire. The results suggested a high level of acceptance of the present strategy, however, it is impossible to implement it fully due to a lack of funds.
- ❑ That is why the Commission decided not to amend the Strategy, but to prepare a strategic plan for the next term of PRC bodies (2006-2009). The plan was drafted on a meeting of Commission's working team in Zgierz on 27-29 September.
- ❑ In August, 20 employees (1 HQ, 10 RB, 9 LB) were trained in PPP during a training session in Zgierz.
- ❑ Throughout the period an e-learning module on PPP was available on PRC website (www.pck.org.pl) in Polish and English.
- ❑ A database of media contacts was created in the Communication Division of the HQ. It is updated and used in communication activities.
- ❑ Two colour printers were purchased for Communication Division of the HQ.

The Polish Red Cross prepared an application for third year of the CBF multi-year grant. Consultation with Regional Delegation was made prior to the final version of application. Together with the standard application form, the Polish Red Cross prepared an accompanying log-frame and budget.

Expected result 2: National Societies' capacity to address governance and management needs at the branch level is increased (Albania, Latvia, Macedonia, Romania).

The planned Training of Trainers for Branch Governance was not organized regionally, but some National Societies have organized training locally. The Latvian Red Cross have been implementing training for a number of branches following training for trainers in 2004.

The Macedonian Red Cross continued with Branch Governance training in early December, facilitated by the OD coordinator and Macedonian RC colleagues. The newly developed four year strategic plan of the Macedonian RC was discussed with branch colleagues. Discussions focused on content of draft Strategic / Development plan and different roles and responsibilities of all actors in the implementation process. Role of the highest Governance body, headquarter and branches was discussed subsequently during the training.

During the second 6 months of 2005, the Albanian Red Cross has focused on supporting branches following the general assembly held in June 2005. The focus has been on providing basic project planning process training to staff and volunteers at branch level, drawing on good project design practice already available in the country.

Expected result 3: Independently well functioning regional youth networking providing valuable input to National Societies and regional programme development (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro).

Following her election to the European Coordination Committee (ECC) during the European Coordination Meeting (ECM) of RC/RC Youth sections held in Vienna in May 2005, the Macedonian Red Cross, Youth President – Vesna Petkovska – attended the first meeting to ensure follow up to the ECM and coordinate initiatives and communication between ECM meetings. During the May ECM, youth representatives expressed their desire to see greater youth participation in the Federation statutory meetings such as the general assembly in Seoul. However there were no youth representatives in the national society delegations to the Seoul meetings from south central Europe. The average age of the youth commission, newly elected in Seoul, did however decrease dramatically – a major achievement for youth lobbyists around the world.

The RD supported two major youth campaigns during the reporting period - Hunger Day in October and World Aids Day anti stigma campaigns in December. The Albanian and Macedonian Red Cross received some financial support through the OD programme to fund Hunger Day activities, predominantly promotional materials to mobilize the public. The result in terms of cash contributions from the public and in-kind contributions is growing each year. The national societies are being encouraged to keep some of the money raised to invest in preparations and promotional materials for Hunger Day activities in 2006.

Support for World AIDS Day was provided through the health/care programme. Please see previous section.

Expected result 4: National Societies are actively adapting and using variety of fundraising techniques, integrated into programme design and planning to increase their in-country fundraising activities.

In October 4 participants from the region attended the international SkillShare conference organized by the International Federation and Resource Alliance International in the Netherlands. Two participants were supported by the Regional Delegation to attend conference. The event attempted to follow up on pledges made by the participants in 2004. However as only one person from the region who attended in 2004 returned in 2005, follow up has been limited. The event does act however as a motivator for fundraisers to compare their activities with those of Red Cross colleagues from around the globe, as well as to pick up new ideas and techniques in a specifically Red Cross context.

In November, seven national societies were supported to attend a fundraising conference organized in Budapest by Civil Society Development Foundation – an NGO umbrella organization based in Budapest but active throughout the region. The event was attended by over 150 participants from larger and smaller NGOs including Habitat for Humanity, and World Wildlife Foundation. Sessions were held on a diverse range of topics – from technical aspects of organizing direct mail drives, to the role of governance in fundraising and new EU funding opportunities – with participants able to choose according to their own interest. Feedback from the Red Cross participants was on the whole positive. The event showed once again that many of the fundraising dilemmas facing the RC are shared by NGOs around the region. However the atmosphere is definitely changing in the civil society sector from a negative –that technique won't work here – attitude to one of – that may possibly work, how can we adapt it to our particular situation?

In October 2005, the Albanian Red Cross held a fundraising workshop for branch secretaries and volunteer fundraising coordinators, funded by the Norwegian gov't/RC grant for 2005. The workshop was facilitated by the Albanian RC fundraising coordinator, together with the head of the development programme and the Federation regional programme coordinator. Branches were encouraged to explore good models of practice and encouraged to further develop the growing trend in local income sources and diversification, based on sound funding plans. Compared with two years ago, when external funding sources (ie. International donors) accounted for over 98% of the national society's income, the Albanian RC has seen diversification in funding sources and an increase in local funding. In 2005 for the first time the government has supported the national society with funding for disaster preparedness activities. Limited local government support for the blood programme has also emerged. The results of local fundraising campaigns with private sector companies and the public are slowly increasing. The major achievement for the Albanian RC in the second half of 2005 was the launch of the commercial first aid training courses. The national society has waited more than one year for the regulations to be passed in order to put into practice the government decree giving the Albanian RC the right to earn money from first aid courses.

Excellent national fundraising campaigns in Bulgaria and Romania for the victims of the floods in the two countries again revealed the potential for local fundraising when the image and public trust in a national society is intact. Unfortunately donor fatigue in the two countries, as well as elsewhere in the region, meant that fundraising for the victims of the earthquake in Pakistan was less successful and could not compare with the unprecedented amounts raised in the wake of the tsunami early in 2005.

Expected result 5: The National Societies have the knowledge, skills and confidence to access new sources of funding and to develop long term funding opportunities.

The RD has started to play a bigger role as a source of information about new funding opportunities available under different funding schemes (European Union, Council of Europe, etc.). National Societies are regularly informed about relevant calls for proposals and technical support is offered to national societies to develop applications. In 2006 the focus will be on identifying a suitable call for proposals around which to build a real life case study and training opportunity for national society staff to train and develop their project proposal writing skills 'on the job'.

On the request of national society leadership, the RD is collecting information from all national societies in the region, concerning the programme earmarking of any funding received from a government by a national society. This comparative analysis will be of use to NS leaders in approaching their governments and ministries and in putting the case for funding for specific issues/programmes.

4.2 Branch and Participatory Community Development (PCD)

Objective:

National Societies have the skills and knowledge to use participatory approaches in addressing and responding to new and existing vulnerabilities

Expected Result 1: Where implemented, PCD is an effective tool to empower vulnerable communities in the region, including potential and actual victims of human trafficking.

The PCD programme focuses on using participatory methodology to facilitate community action and to strengthen branch capacity to identify and meet the needs of the most vulnerable communities, particularly Roma people, refugees, migrants and other marginalised groups.

In Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro and Macedonia, the third round of the PCD implementation had been finalised by the end of December 2005. The micro-projects have been implemented and evaluated by the selected local communities (except for village Sindel in Bulgaria, micro-project is to be implemented). PCD projects in the field of forced migration and prevention of human trafficking implemented by the Bulgarian RC are progressing well and will be completed early next year. In Romania, Harghita branch, PCD programme was concluded in November with the Evaluation Meeting focused on discussions about the future of the programme in that region.

The PCD programme was introduced to the Croatian RC and the RC Society of Bosnia & Herzegovina (B&H) and initial PCD training for the PCD coordinators was organized in Sarajevo in December. In each NS, two local branches were selected for the PCD implementation: Ogulin and Darda in Croatia and Foca and Tuzla in RCS of B&H. In the Albanian RC, PCD training for programme coordinators and local branches will be held at the beginning of 2006.

Country	Branches	Projects
Bulgaria	Yambol region: Veselinovo village	RC unit established in Veselinovo Youth club for Bulgarians and Roma, sports field Trainings for youth, FA training, medical equipment for the club PRA training and field work completed, currently micro-project planned by the community
	Varna region, Sindel village	
	Razgrad, Vratza, Burgas	Turk-Roma club for women and children Training and equipping local DR team Long-term planning for social integration of Roma
	Sofia	Establishment of NGO "Light for Women" Activities for children from orphanage; assistance to detained migrants; brochure on legal migration; training on legal instruments regarding migration, both national and international
	Burgas, village Sigmen	PCD training with children living in institutions and planning their future together with all stakeholders
Macedonia	Valandovo, Radovis, Kicevo and Demir Hisar	Access to health care, language courses for youth Vocational training Youth programmes to increase interethnic communication Computer courses for youth Social activities for elderly and other vulnerable groups
Romania	Harghita branch: Fancel, Ulcani, Tamasu, Sancrai, Tibod and Dealu .	Health prevention and community-based "First Aid giving families" Women Club, mini-library Prevention of HIV/AIDS and healthy life styles promotion
Serbia and Montenegro	In Serbia: Paracin and Kikinda In Montenegro: Bar	Water-sanitation project (constructing public taps), hygiene education Kindergarten for Roma and other children Fixing premises for workshop for Roma children Activities for children with special needs and their parents

Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC)



Figure 2: PCD in Yambol region in Bulgaria

PCD process has been completed in the village Veselinovo with official opening of the Youth Club, attended by municipal officials, people from the community, BRC representatives and media. Children and women were the most active participants in the process. In the village of Sindel, due to heavy engagement of all staff and volunteers in floods situation, a micro-project is currently being planned, and the community (mixed Roma and Bulgarians) is very active and committed.

Three communities which have already applied PCD (Razgrad, Burgas, Vratza) resumed community activities and community meetings, in order to reassess the needs and plan future projects. As a result, new micro-projects were implemented in Razgrad and Vratza, while in Burgas, they opted to elaborate more

long-term plan aiming at integrating Roma community, using local resources for improving their situation.

The Bulgarian RC has continued with a pilot PCD programme with an Arab migrant community living in Sofia region. At present various small projects have resulted from the PCD training provided to the community. Through the PCD process, the community itself provides support and builds mechanisms to assist the most vulnerable especially undocumented migrants. Through this project the Bulgarian Red Cross is gaining access to, and the trust of, the Arab migrant community, and is becoming more knowledgeable about the needs of the community and therefore able to develop a more comprehensive policy and strategy regarding migration issues.

The PCD pilot programme in the field of prevention of human trafficking started in September in Burgas region, village of Sigmen, targeting children living in institutions. In addition to institutions and the community from the village of Sigmen, the authorities and NGOs from Burgas region are also involved in the project. This is important in order to develop a long term vision and the conditions for the later development of the children, when they will have to leave the institution, and to provide a safety and support net to them when they are no longer covered by the protection of the institution.

Macedonian Red Cross (MRC)

Four RC branches completed the PCD process during this year: Valandovo, Radovis, Kicevo and Demir Hisar. The target groups in the communities were amongst the most vulnerable population, predominantly Roma people, living with other ethnic groups in very difficult socio-economic conditions.

The experience of MRC has shown that involvement of the PCD team and the members of the community in the implementation of the micro projects was an important element for success within any given micro-project. Participation in both community life and decision making which impacts on the community is key. In this round of the PCD programme, local municipalities supported all micro-projects in the local communities with 30% of the total funding needed for implementation. An evaluation of the PCD programme in Macedonian RC was undertaken during the autumn, carried out by an external consultant – a University professor and members of the PCD team. Findings will be shared with all interested parties and incorporated into future plans.

Three new RC branches were included in the PCD process, starting from September: Tetovo, Karpos (Skopje) and Kavadarci. Preparatory activities were carried out including the introduction of branches to PCD Plan of Action, selection of the vulnerable communities and establishing the local PCD teams.

Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro

Three RC branches/communities completed the PCD process during the autumn: Paracin and Kikinda in Serbia, and Bar in Montenegro. During this round of PCD implementation, the national coordinator has used a

combination of two methodologies: PCD - a tried and tested effective approach - and the Needs Assessment Project, using best practices from the pilot project which was implemented in the national society during 2004. During the PCD process, very good cooperation was established with the local authorities and their support to the micro-projects was significant.



Figure 3: Roma settlement in Kikinda region of Vojvodina, Serbia and Montenegro

Three new local branches have started the PCD process this autumn: Novi Beograd and Ruma in Serbia and Niksic in Montenegro. In all municipalities selected for PCD implementation, the target groups are amongst the most vulnerable people living in dire conditions. Most of these people are from Roma communities, but also include members of other ethnic groups as well as people living with disabilities. A PCD Evaluation Meeting was held in October, bringing together local branches and communities participating in the PCD and Needs Assessment programme.

Hungarian RC and Romanian RC Twinning Cooperation

The Romanian Red Cross Harghita branch is the main implementing party in the twinning project. The Romanian Red Cross HQ is monitoring and supervising the process and

the Hungarian Red Cross PCD coordinator is professionally supporting the twinning PCD programme. The twinning programme takes place in the region of Romania where the majority of the population is of Hungarian ethnic origin. By November 2005, the PCD process, including the micro-project implementation, was completed in 12 local communities: Atia, Vale a lui Pavel, Jolotca, Fagetel-Eseneu, Sanmartin, Ciucsangeorgi (Bancu), Fancel, Ulcani, Tamasu, Tibod, Sancrai, Dealu. The PCD programme was called “Open Gates”, to symbolise new opportunities and initiatives for the vulnerable communities.

Very harsh winter conditions in that region, remoteness of the villages involved, sometimes non-existent roads, as well as recent floods that seriously affected the area, all hampered timely programme implementation, but with the committed engagement of the branch director, communities and volunteers, it was brought to a successful end.

A final evaluation meeting took place in November, gathering representatives of the local communities involved (including Roma people who spoke openly about their difficult situation), RC volunteers and representatives of local municipalities. Future plans were discussed and potential funding sources for the micro-projects designed by the communities explored. PCD coordinators from RC of S&M and Bulgarian RC participated in the event, sharing experience and lessons learned from their NS.

The PCD programme, as well as other RC activities, in Harghita region continuously receives excellent media coverage, thanks to very good cooperation with international media company. New local Roma communities supported by the local municipalities were included in the PCD process, as result of the media coverage of the PCD programme. The regional branch recruited 500 more members and volunteers through implementation of the PCD process, as well as establishing many new contacts with local authorities and potential donors.

Through the NS HQ, regular contacts are kept with the Swiss RC on potential funding to extend the PCD programme in the Romanian RC.

Hungarian RC

The Hungarian RC held an Open Space event in November gathering local PCD coordinators, stakeholders and members of respective communities looking into the future development of the programme, including the funding

opportunities, role of the national coordinator, etc. The meeting produced new ideas and guidelines for the future which will be shared with other NSs. The PCD programme started in June in three new local branches and will be finalised by the end of March 2006.

Impact

As a result of the implemented projects and knowledge of the methodology and participatory needs assessment process, National Societies have increased their capacities to identify existing vulnerabilities and to work with vulnerable people. The PCD programme has contributed to community based social and health-education programmes and has promoted social inclusion of Roma and other vulnerable and marginalised groups. The programme provides new skills to both the community and the local RC branch staff and volunteers and creates new partnerships on a local and national level.

Future

The future of PCD will continuously focus on more integration of the PCD components in other programmes such as health/care, as well as implementation of the PCD methodology in programmes with forced migrants and in the area of combating human trafficking. Exchange of experience and skills within and outside of NS involved in the programme will be facilitated. The results of PCD's evaluation and recommendations for improvement will be incorporated in the future planning.

Conclusion

The PCD concept has proven to be an excellent tool to sustain locally designed and managed projects for the benefit of Roma and other vulnerable groups, according to the Red Cross principles and values which produces further and more general impact on the general situation of the respective countries. After several years of PCD programme implementation, National Societies in the region have gained knowledge and developed skills to work effectively with the vulnerable communities on a branch level including working with the Roma communities. The PCD methodology has been increasingly integrated in the NSs core activities such as health and social welfare.

Expected Result 2: The regional PCD coordinators' team is a mechanism for making best use of participatory approaches in national societies

The PCD package and experienced PCD practitioners from the region are available to provide advice and share experience with interested NSs and Federation Delegations from other regions within and outside Europe. Any agreement on deployment to assist other national societies through short term missions will be managed by the regional delegation through the regional resource roster and system which is being developed.

In July, a meeting of Health and PCD coordinators was held in Macedonia. Discussions focused on sharing experiences among the NS on Health and Care programmes, how to integrate the PCD components into health programmes, how to better work with the communities in health programmes and how to recruit and maintain volunteers.

A VCA/PCD Practitioner Forum took place in October in Montenegro with the aim of bringing together staff and volunteers who have been actively involved in carrying out PCD and VCA to share ideas and expertise and to contribute to the future development and revision of the VCA tools, materials and activities, also taking into account the significant contribution of the PCD experience in CE region.

The PCD team has shared their experience and views with the consultant appointed to develop guidelines for working with Roma programmes who visited the region in November.

In accordance with the evaluation document produced by external experts from the UK on the Home Care programme, the PCD coordinator of RC S&M has facilitated five trainings for 96 Local RC branches in S&M. The methodology as well as technique of PCD is already presented to all RC Branches who are running Home Care and a large group workshop is planned to take place as a pilot in the Home Care Programme.

Future

The PCD team established in the region will be acting as a pool of experts available for other NSs who would like to apply the PCD methodology, using the PCD package developed at the RD. PCD basic training will be organised for more NS interested during 2006, as well as upgrading training for the PCD practitioners. The PCD coordinator

from the RC of S&M was tasked by the PCD coordinator's team to look into how to present PCD on the web, primarily using FedNet. It is to be discussed with other programmes in the RD and with Europe department, but initial ideas have been discussed and a first page with links to NS PCD programmes drafted.

Expected Result 3: National Societies have benefited from twinning, networking and/or other partnership opportunities to further develop PCD.

A round table discussion under the heading: *"The role of Governmental and Non-governmental organizations in development of Local Community"* took place during the third day of the evaluation meeting of the PCD programme in RC of Serbia and Montenegro. The meeting took place in the premises of the Red Cross and several NGOs were present as well as all elements of the Movement (ICRC, Federation and the representatives of RC of S&M).

The PCD practitioners from Macedonian RC and RC of S&M facilitated PCD introductory training for PCD coordinators from Croatian RC and RC of B&H. The Finnish RC has initiated discussions on the possible introduction of the PCD methodology and programme in Tajikistan RC in 2006, using PCD practitioners from the region.

4.3 Population Movement

Support is provided for implementation of this programme in Croatia through the regional participatory community development coordinator. Similar population movement programmes are being implemented in Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the national societies working closely with the Federation delegations there.

Objective:

Multi-ethnic local communities within the return area of Croatia have increased their capacities to integrate the most vulnerable returnee families and to ensure basic conditions for sustainable return.

The Community Mobilisation Project in Croatia aims to assist returnees in building up their lives back in their places of origin after several years of displacement, by working with the multi-ethnic communities on a branch level. The project assists returnees in Croatia, and other vulnerable individuals within the local communities in return areas, with small community mobilisation projects, tailored to the needs of the community through participatory engagement, and organizes inter-ethnic social activities within the Red Cross branches, promoting Red Cross principles and reconciliation.

Five local RC branches in return areas in Croatia have been implementing the Community Mobilisation programme during the year of 2005: Novska, Dvor, Donji Lapac, Benkovac and Topusko. Since October 2005, additional local branches have joined the programme: Slunj, Otocac, Gracac, Ogulin and Korenica. RC branches have established various community activities for children, youth or elderly people, and have implemented community mobilisation projects aimed at assisting returnees in building up their lives back in their places of origin after several years of displacement (such as distribution of livestock, agricultural tools, seeds, cleaning the water-wells, basic relief aid, organizing various social and educational activities, kindergartens, vocational trainings, providing expertise and advice to returnees, enabling exchange of audio-visual messages/information sharing with refugees still in S&M, etc.). The projects were designed and monitored by the local Committees established within the RC branch, and consisting of representatives of the local community, RC volunteers (of a different ethnic background), non-governmental organizations and returnees themselves.

Impact

This programme has proven to be very well received by the beneficiaries, due to its emphasized "participatory" and community-based components. Returnees and other vulnerable beneficiaries are encouraged to take the initiative in assessing their needs and searching for possible solutions, also beyond the scope of this programme. Facilitating the contacts and information flow between the beneficiaries and the relevant authorities, IOs and NGOs, CRC has strived to ensure the inclusion of the beneficiaries in local development and reintegration projects.

Through this programme, local RC branches have facilitated communication and rebuilding confidence among different ethnic, religious, age and other groups within their community.

Future

CRC is continuously negotiating with both the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the local municipalities and local funding sources (if any) in order to be able to sustain its assistance programmes on a local level and some achievements have already been made in some branches such as Knin, Topusko, Novska, Benkovac. Therefore, there was no need for more international support for this particular project and other branches were included in the programme already during 2005.

5. Coordination, Advocacy and Humanitarian Values

This section reflects the integration of humanitarian values, advocacy and coordination functions in a smaller regional delegation in 2005. For this reason there are no separate texts under section 3 (humanitarian values) and section 6 (international representation). This follows the structure of the Central Europe Appeal 2005.

Goal: The situation of the most vulnerable communities in South Central Europe is improved.

Objective: The role of South Central European national societies in voicing and responding to the needs of the most vulnerable groups in the region is recognized, supported and strengthened.

Progress/Achievements:

Expected Result 1: Appropriate technical expertise is made available in a timely manner responding to national society requests.

The Regional Delegation has been developing over the last years a unique human resource set-up, based on the principles of the regional recruitment programme. From an essentially delegate-heavy delegation in the mid-90s, at present all technical programme coordinator positions (disaster management, health and care, organizational development, participatory community development) are held by regionally recruited staff. The added value of this set up has proved itself over the years – in terms of working languages, cultural appropriateness and awareness, capacity building and bringing the Federation closer to the national societies.

To take this development further a roster of resource persons from the region (national society and Federation staff and volunteers) has been built up, to provide a pool from which expert practitioners in specific fields can be matched with national society requests for assistance. This roster has been officially presented to the national society leaders during the second leaders meeting in October 2005, and any additional input to the roster encouraged. To date, the Bulgarian RC has provided information on experts in particular fields.

On a concrete level, following the extensive flooding in the region during the summer and autumn, the RDRT team has been very active, with four missions to date to Romania to support the Romanian RC in developing its logistical and operational capacity in this emergency situation. All requests for deployment of national society personnel have been supported by national society, and the regional delegation is appreciative of this fact. RDRT training planned for 2006 will attempt to balance the current 50-strong RDRT pool by training persons with specific profiles which are currently lacking or under represented in the pool (such as administrators and communications).

The knowledge-sharing meeting held in Budapest in December 2005 was a further element in developing this regional resource concept. Emerging capacities and resources in areas where national societies are developing an expertise were mapped. Plans were drawn up to identify what resources will be needed when, and by which national society, and who could potentially fill the resource gap – from the region or beyond. External resource persons and consultants, who have been supporting specific programmes in the region, participated at the meeting – as part of the wider regional resource pool.

Expected Result 2: National Societies are recognized as prominent actors in the strengthening of civil society and as dialogue partners on national and regional vulnerability issues.

During the second quarter of 2005, a second edition of *The Bridge* magazine was prepared, to be ready for distribution during the Seoul General Assembly meetings. This issue focused on health related topics – including TB – the challenges in the region and some new approaches. Once again the magazine brought together articles and reports from the wider Europe region – including, for example, the Italian RC and the Russian Red Cross. The

magazine was well received in Seoul, in the region and by external partners. Preparations began in December for the next issue of *The Bridge*, which will focus on issues to be discussed at the upcoming Moscow Conference (to take place in Moscow in April 2006) principally migration and health. There will be a special insert to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster and to look at how far the Red Cross response is continuing. Funding for this next issue is by no means assured, and contributions are being actively sought from a range of partners. At present, the British, Italian and Swedish RC have confirmed contributions.

The Regional Delegation continues to draw attention to the issue of trafficking in human beings, and to use appropriate opportunities to encourage those national societies not yet involved in work in this field to look at the possibilities and needs. An International Conference "Stop Trafficking in Human Beings" took place in Cavtat, Croatia in October, organized by the Croatian Government. The Croatian Red Cross participated and presented their activities in this field. The Federation Delegation Budapest and Belgrade also participated, together with the Danish RC Facilitator of European RC/RC cooperation in response to human trafficking. During the Conference, a meeting was held with the representatives of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for the Western Balkans. The South East European Conference on Human Anti-Trafficking took place in Belgrade, November 3rd 2005, organized by the Serbia & Montenegro (S&M) RC and S&M Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The participants of the Conference shared and supported the reviewed activities on combating trafficking in the region of South East Europe. Working groups recommended future steps to be taken in this field for governments, NGOs and Red Cross Societies in the region. It was agreed that the NS of B&H and Macedonia would receive support from one of the more experienced NS in the region to explore possibilities for involvement in this field. The Albanian RC did not attend the conference but the conclusions will be shared with the NS management.

The Croatian RC and RC of S&M are implementing programmes in the field of combating human trafficking, supported by the Norwegian RC/Government, through the Danish RC Facilitator. In Croatia, the programme focuses on training RC branches and volunteers, training and maintaining regional mobile teams whose task is to respond and assist potential victims and public awareness activities. In S&M, the programme includes training of branches and volunteers, peer education and public awareness activities. In December, an initial meeting with the IOM mission in B&H was held, in order to exchange information on activities related to prevention and combating human trafficking and to discuss possible cooperation between the RC of B&H and IOM. Contacts were also established with MARRI Centre (Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative) within the Stability Pact for SE Europe in order to discuss possibilities for co-operation on a regional level in the field of prevention of human trafficking over the next two years

In addition, all NS in the region are planning regular awareness and advocacy campaigns to fight stigma and discrimination linked to HIV/AIDS and TB. The results of these plans can be seen in the range of activities carried out to mark World AIDS Day on 1 December. Please see the Health/Care section.

Expected Result 3: Strategic partnerships with government, UN agencies, organisations and authorities provide a basis for more effective resource management and mobilisation and benefit national society programmes.

Within the area of health and care, key partners are Global Fund, ministries of health, national HIV/AIDS and TB institutes, People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), WHO and national blood transfusion centres. With the signing of a cooperation agreement with WHO for Europe, the focus will be on looking at how this operational alliance can provide concrete input to the work of the national societies in capacity building in the health/care field. There are plans to work closely with WHO on training and capacity building in the field of ensuring safe blood supplies, if funding is made available early in 2006.

Within disaster management key partners are civil protection, Stability Pact and DPPI, as well as ministries and local authorities. The output has been funding for DP programmes and effective implementation in emergencies.

In the OD field, discussions have also begun with Aveco - an association of chief executives of voluntary organizations - to look at developing cooperation and a platform for experience exchange with national society and other NGO leaders in the region. It is hoped that 2006 will see the Regional Delegation working closely with Aveco to provide opportunities for skills development for leadership in the region.

Expected Result 4: National societies in Europe use RC partnership networks to strengthen capacity in programme delivery through experience, know-how and expertise exchange.

A second leaders meeting for national society management and governance from the region took place in Budapest in October 2005. Following up on the May meeting, the leaders gathered to prepare further for the Seoul General Assembly and Council of Delegates, to look at the implications for the Federation of the Future process in Europe, to input into the Moscow Conference preparations and to discuss the proposed global shelter role for the International Federation and the implications that would have on the work of national societies.

The knowledge-sharing meeting held in Budapest in December 2005 was a further element in developing the partnership networks to strengthen capacity. The mapping of current and emerging resources was an important exercise carried out in a participatory way during the meeting. National society participants were able to look at their planned needs over a range of areas and where this resource or expertise can currently be accessed. It is hoped that the contacts made during the workshop, between national societies within the region, and also with those from neighboring regions will be followed up on by NS in 2006.

Each regional programme coordinator at the RD has a crucial role to play in identifying and listening to national society needs and matching with appropriate support. During the last 6 months RC partnership and exchange in the region has included:

Technical Area	National Societies and Local RC involved	Comment
Disaster Management	Bulgaria/Romania/Croatia/Macedonia/Serbia & Montenegro/Bosnia & Herzegovina	RDRT deployed for assessment
Health/Care	Macedonia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria	Planned visit to Russian RC on TB programming
Participatory Methodologies	Bosnia & Herzegovina/Serbia & Montenegro/Macedonia	Introduction of PCD in BiHRC
	Tajikistan/Bulgaria/Finland	Plans for possible introduction of PCD in Tajikistan.

Expected Result 5: Advocacy materials are made available to various partners, agencies, organisations and authorities.

Please see expected result 2 above on the Bridge magazine, which has been the key advocacy material produced during the second half of 2006.