

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

Appeal No. MAA66001
15 December 2006

The Federation's vision is to strive, through voluntary action, for a world of empowered communities, better able to address human suffering and crises with hope, respect for dignity and a concern for equity. Its mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: 1 June to 30 September, 2006;
Appeal target 2006-2007: CHF 4,257,996 (USD 3,508,095 or EUR 2,664,370);
Appeal coverage: 52 % [Click here for the interim financial report to date](#)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Central Europe Annual Appeal 2006/2007. For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA66001.pdf

Central Europe Annual Appeal 2006/2007 – Programme Update no.1. For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAA6600101.pdf

Bosnia and Herzegovina Annual Appeal 2006/2007. For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAABA001.pdf

Serbia and Montenegro/Kosovo Annual Appeal 2006/2007. For details, please go to the website at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual06/MAACS001.pdf

Annual Appeals 2006/2007 for Europe/Central Asia region. For details please see the website at <http://www.ifrc.org/where/europe.asp>

The programmes herein are aligned with the Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission:

1. Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
2. Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
3. Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
4. Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Programme summary

Programme implementation continued well in the second half of 2006, with the expected major funding being confirmed (Norwegian Red Cross/Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Finnish Red Cross). This enabled a revision of the budgets for 2006 and plans of action in June, prioritizing activities in line with received income. The main areas of revision were in Regional Health/Care, where the budget was revised from CHF 426,563 to CHF 249,037; Regional Organizational Development budget was revised from CHF 495,758 to CHF 656,012 to reflect outstanding balances remaining from 2005 for Albanian RC and for capacity building fund interventions; Regional Participatory Community Development budget was revised from CHF 627,139 to CHF 801,348; and

Regional Disaster Management budget was revised from CHF 451,299 to CHF 542,241. This includes balance of funds from Norwegian RC/Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2005, the implementation of which has been extended to 31 July 2006. Regional Promotion of Humanitarian Values is revised from CHF 119,000 to CHF 102,513 to reflect funding situation and reducing the amount set aside to support National Societies in developing activities to respond to human trafficking. Coordination and implementation budget was revised from CHF 221,139 to CHF 146,922 – this budget is now mainly used for in-kind Finance Delegate costs, which are fully covered by Finnish Red Cross.

With its staff principally from regional sources, the Regional Delegation relies on covering regional coordinator salaries from its programme funding. Despite the recognized added value of this approach to re-sourcing in the region, this funding structure is not easy to secure and is a constant source of concern for the RD.

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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 quality and accountable 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

During the reporting period, post flood operation in Romania has continued with the focus on distribution of food and hygienic parcels, shelter solution and water and sanitation assistance to those affected by floods. Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) was supporting the Romanian Red Cross during the months of June and July with its relief and water sanitation experts. Since August, Romanian RC is managing the floods operation on its own. The Federation funding through the Emergency Appeal will concentrate on completing food parcel distribution by the end of January 2007 with focus on Dolj and Tulcea counties, as they are the counties with the biggest number of affected persons.

A referendum in Montenegro about the future of the republic in the state union of Serbia & Montenegro ended in a vote for independence. After the referendum both National Societies went through the process of re-recognition. Representatives of Joint Movement Statutory Commission visited both National Societies in order to reassess ten conditions for the recognition of National Societies as well other aspects of high importance for the future. Both the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Federation have decided that Serbian Red Cross will continue its membership as a National Society in the Red Cross Movement as an organization that inherited status of the Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross. During the Governing Board meeting that will take place in the end of October this issue will be on the agenda. The Montenegrin Red Cross had been re-recognized by the ICRC as well and they will be provisionally admitted to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on the forthcoming session of the Governing Board until the next General Assembly next year when this decision will be confirmed.

European Union (EU) accession continues to be a key issue for debate in the region. Bulgaria and Romania have clarified timeframes for accession. However this pre-accession status means that funding previously open to the countries and channeled through EU member governments has now dried up. Other mechanisms are now open to these countries nationally, but are in the process of development. National societies are being encouraged to work closely with the relevant ministries and state representatives to access these new funding sources, and to lobby for recognition of the Red Cross as a leader in the humanitarian field. National societies will need further support in lobbying nationally and in order to understand how these mechanisms can work. The experience of the last group of accession states to the EU is invaluable in this, as well as the 'older' EU members, who are now regularly accessing EU funding sources nationally or through the commission in Brussels.

Health and Care

Overview

The regional Health and Care (H&C) program has been supporting eight NSs in the Central Europe (CE) region, contributing to building their capacity and promoting the health and well being of vulnerable individuals and communities. During the reporting period the regional H&C programme has continued to support and strengthen NS networks and collaboration and the Regional Delegation (RD) provided information sharing. Visits went ahead to the NSs of Romania, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In June, appeal budget for the H&C program was revised down from CHF 426,563 to CHF 249,037 in order to reflect actual and expected funding situation. Norwegian RC/government funding is available for HIV/AIDS and TB activities, Finish RC donation for the blood related activities and Global Program funds via Geneva Secretariat for Harm Reduction and TB (Romania) activities.

Programme Goal: Health and Care situation in the region is further improved.

Programme Objective: NS Health and Care program is well functioning in identifying and responding to the needs in the country.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Expected Result 1: NS have increased skills and knowledge to work on prevention of HIV/AIDS among vulnerable groups in CE region.

In a region that has a growing incidence of HIV/AIDS, the NSs continue with their efforts to contribute to HIV/AIDS control and prevention. Eligible NSs work as a partner of the government in implementing the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). In the area of HIV/AIDS, projects are targeting prevention of sexually risky behaviour among different target groups and the RD has been assisting NSs in identifying the most vulnerable groups (youth, Intravenous drug users (IDU), commercial sex workers (CSW) and victims of trafficking through community-based approach and more effective involvement of People living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV). RD is planning with all NSs awareness and advocacy campaigns to fight stigma and discrimination linked to People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). During the reporting period, the RD has been working with NSs (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, including Kosovo) to identify suitable projects for funding to mark the key event on the 1st of December, the World AIDS day. The RD encourages NSs to build on the success of their campaigns to ensure that anti stigma and discrimination issues receive attention throughout the year and not just in December. NSs of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, including Kosovo came up with the project proposals focusing on prevention of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB) in their respective countries. The projects will be supported with funds available through Norwegian Red Cross and the operating time frame will be October 2006 – May 2007. Although RD no longer supports the NSs in the new EU states, the attention has been given to the HIV/AIDS project in the Lithuanian Red Cross in cooperation with the Kaliningrad local RC branch of the Russian Red Cross. Funding for the project has been secured through the American Red Cross donation.

National Societies in the region continue to be involved in the Harm Reduction (HR) activities, while the RD continues to support NSs in implementing HIV/AIDS activities related to HR in coordination with the Federation Secretariat and the Italian Red Cross. NSs of Macedonia and Croatia benefited from the funding available through the Global Program. Croatian Red Cross continues to have leading role in HR program with needle exchange program (NEP) in three counties of the country. Macedonian Red Cross is extending its HR activities to NEP in two towns of the country. There have been numerous discussions with the NSs of Romania and Serbia regarding the start of the HR program, to be supported by the Global Program funds. It is expected that the HR program will start by the end of this year. Although the RD no longer supports the NS in the new EU states, RD has been following up HR project that has started last year in the Latvian Red Cross.

All NSs in the region are members of ERNA¹ and the RD continues to encourage them to take an active role in the work and future development as a forum to develop excellence through experience and information exchange. The ERNA meeting was held in September in Oslo with participation of representatives from Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian and Serbian Red Cross.

Expected Result 2: NS have access to skill, experience and knowledge to contribute to TB control in the relevant countries through promotion and support of DOTS.



Marking “TB week” in September, Romanian RC

In 2006, the RD continues to assist development of NSs strategic plans related to TB projects raising awareness among vulnerable groups and focusing on patient treatment compliance providing incentives. The Federation Secretariat and RD provided technical support in preparing and implementing the plan of action for the TB projects. The 6th Round of GFATM on TB proposals has been an opportunity for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia Red Cross. During the reporting period, all NSs have been proactive in presenting plan of activities to access the GFATM funds by the end 2006. In the area of TB control NSs are also engaged in DOTS². NS of Bosnia and Herzegovina dedicated “TB Week” in September with special attention to fight against TB and supporting patients and family members through Home Care Program. Croatian RC worked

continuously over the whole year with promotional and educational activities in the schools and with special attention on “TB Week” visiting patients at their homes or in the hospitals. In Macedonia, the NS used a community-based approach to mobilize TB affected persons to improve their situation and Macedonian RC has contacted the primary recipient of the GFATM with ongoing negotiations. Due to the very high incidence of MDR-TB the Romanian RC is implementing a strong prevention campaign and has ensured successful implementation of TB activities. Global Program fund has approved additional USD 10,000 this summer for TB activities in Romania. Montenegro RC needs further support as a newly separate country and RC. Serbian RC has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health on different TB prevention activities covering the target population around the country with information sharing and social support. Serbian RC is included in DOTS assistance in few new local RC branches

Expected Result 3: The capacity of NS to reduce the vulnerability of communities to emergencies and disasters has been increased.

Integrated approach to health and disaster management (DM) activities focusing on reducing community vulnerability was exercised during the DM training in Struga, Macedonia in May and it has proved to be very useful and practical. A key emergency issue in CE region has been the last year appearance of the Avian Influenza among wild birds and poultry in the region. Governments of all countries in the region are working on pandemic preparedness and outbreak management. Secretariat and RD is progressively planning for a comprehensive global support for possible pandemic response. Prevention activities for animal to human transmission will be included into the Secretariat annual appeals. RD continuously shares information related to pandemic preparedness and response and monitor of the situation according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations.

The NSs in the region have been traditionally involved in First Aid (FA) program following the European guidelines, although Community Based First Aid (CBFA) is not implemented enough. Almost all NSs have prioritised commercial first aid and standardization of the training curriculum that is increasingly creating local funds and raising opportunities in all countries. NSs are usually the only agencies implementing first aid for

¹ European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS and TB

² Directly observed treatment, short-course

drivers. The aim of CBFA is to broaden the FA base by linking with other activities identified in the communities working through the voluntary network. During the first half of 2006, few NSs from the region (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia) organized National FA competitions for the winning teams to take part in the FACE hosted by the Italian RC. NS from the region did well at the competition with the Serbian RC being the winner and Croatian RC being the 5th. The RD was assisting NS actions marking the World First Aid Day 2006 on the second Saturday of September to organize public events and ceremonies, mobilizing volunteers and communities in order to raise awareness about the importance of the FA. The Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) is a hosted program of the Federation Secretariat. The aim is to facilitate road safety NSs initiatives with special attention on road safety situation in particular countries and mapping the current situation.

Expected Result 4: NS have increased cooperation on safety of blood supplies in the region.

Blood donation activities are an area where NSs continue to grow in competence and have been mostly traditionally involved. NS have presented an interest to have common meetings on regional level related to the issue to promote safe blood supplies and regular collaboration with other NSs. Therefore, the RD has agreed with Federation Secretariat to organize a regional workshop on VNRBDR program through information sharing about the youth recruitment and the blood safety supplies. The Croatian RC was invited and agreed to take initiative to organize this meeting in Dubrovnik in early 2007. World Blood Donor Day was marked on 14 June. It raised large media attention of NS implementing various activities focusing on young blood donors. The Albanian RC is in processes of translation of the Federation manual "Making a Difference" into Albanian language.

Expected Result 5: NS are expected to have a system in place to provide psychological support services integrated with other Health and Care activities and participatory community development (PCD).

Psychological Support services integrated with other health and disaster management activities is a relatively new program in the region and is in the process of being introduced in some NSs (Croatia, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Kosovo). NSs need to be engaged in new response methods in connection with anti stigma and discrimination of PLWHA and TB and need to provide psychological support to the victims. The RD encourages the inclusion of psychological support elements in H&C activities working with vulnerable groups. Experience could be shared with other NSs to encourage planning for similar activities on an annual meeting of the European Network of Psychological Support (ENPS) in October 2006 as resource to collect good practices and tools. Bulgarian and Croatian RC have already started to provide psychological support and have implemented activities in response to trafficking to the victims and family members considering health and social risks.

Expected Result 6: NS have increased capacity for strategic planning and partnerships development to contribute to Health and Care control in the country.

NSs are traditionally involved in different H&C activities, depending on the specific needs in each country. RC of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia are very active in the home care program. All of them have different activities to support elderly and socially most vulnerable. Child survival projects to decrease mortality rates and health education for females of a reproductive age have been developed in Albania and Kosovo, including a large number of trained volunteers who are community representatives.

Regular contacts with Geneva Secretariat on information and knowledge sharing continues. During the reporting period Global H&C Strategy was sent to all NSs for comments, as well as First Aid updates, GRSP questionnaire, Avian Influenza (AI) checklist and HIV/AIDS update situation. The feedbacks are expected from the NSs and the results of the analysis will be used for further improvement and development. The RD continues with H&C program information sharing issues with Hungarian Red Cross.

Impact

The main impact during the reporting period has been an active involvement of all NSs in preparing comprehensive proposals for the HIV/AIDS and TB projects, marking World Blood Donors Day, HR reduction activities and FA competition. The NSs capacity to plan and implement sustainable H&C activities continues to

grow. The GFATM has provided an opportunity for the NSs to be an active partner to the government in implementation of HIV/AIDS and TB programs. The feedback from the training is a good example on increased collaboration to scale up knowledge and experience. This ensures that NSs with different socio economic and cultural context can coach with sister NSs providing feedback during project implementation. The collaboration with the RC/EU Office in Brussels continues in order to provide support and relevant information on that issue.

Constraints

Some NSs (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro) have insufficient capacity that restricts the opportunities for communication and coordination of activities in the country. In some countries of the region political commitment and discussions towards HIV/AIDS, TB and HR control has been slow and the political situation could somehow create difficulties for NSs to maintain the particular program activities. In some H&C fields, the NS cooperation with government agencies and local NGOs is still not developed as it could be. Health in emergencies has to increase program profile in this region, but limited financial situation does not provide space for NSs to promote the further development. Integration of health and disaster departments in the NS will need more attention and expertise in the future. Due to their status in the EU accession process, some countries could face difficulties, as previous sources of funding are no longer accessible. The role of the H&C program in the region should continue in strong partnership with the NS together with the Federation Secretariat.

Disaster management

Overview

During the past four months the regional disaster management programme continued to support the NSs in the Central Europe Region by building NS capacity in disaster management and strengthening networks and collaboration.



Romania: floods effect in spring 2006

The Albanian Red Cross was visited in July 2006 with an aim to meet the Albanian RC Headquarter, DM department and Albanian RC Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) members and start with preparations for the Regional DM coordinators' meeting and RDRT refresher course planned to be held in Albania on 22-29 October 2006.

The post flood operation continues in Romania with a focus on relief efforts. Food parcels distribution to those still suffering from the effects of the spring flooding is concentrated around the two counties with the biggest number of effected persons: Dolj and Tulcea. 3,182 food parcels were distributed (2,598 in Dolj and 584 in Tulcea). The German Red Cross donation of 7,200 hygiene parcels was distributed in Calarasi, Dolj and Tulcea counties in September.

Solutions to the long term shelter question are still under discussion in the municipalities, including the issue of where to rebuild communities at risk. In August and September the government provided 200 containers in Calarasi county and 477 containers in Dolj county in which 1,688 people are living. The Romanian RC placed three containers and one boat from the German RC donation in Crisan Tulcea county. The three containers will serve as warehouse and will be equipped with the necessary relief items in case of emergency. Red Cross tents have been used in the camps, especially in Rast, Dolj county. In the 2005 flood operation, the Romanian RC procured 140 containers using funds from local donors, which are currently providing shelter to 65 families in six counties which were affected last year. Unlike governmental containers, the RC containers are equipped with heating and electricity which has been greatly appreciated by the beneficiaries. The Romanian RC hopes to transfer these containers for use by those displaced in 2006 for a longer period to fulfil their winterisation needs. Red Cross latrines in Calarasi and Dolj counties are in place and the construction of showers is finalized. Materials have been prepared for a hygiene promotion campaign, which will start once Romanian RC coordinator has been

recruited and the funding has been secured through local donations. At the end of July, both the international water and sanitation delegate and the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) leader ended their missions in Romania. From 1 August the Romanian RC local staff is managing the operation, with continuing support through the RD. Federation funding through this Emergency Appeal will concentrate on completing food parcel distribution by the end of January 2007.

Programme Goal: The efficiency and effectiveness of National Societies in the region in their response to natural or man-made disasters is increased.

Programme 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.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Expected Result 1: By the end of 2006, all National Societies in the region have updated their disaster preparedness plans and created contingency plans, within their respective national contexts.

The first DM training for Kosovo and Metohija RC was organised on 25-26 September 2006 in Kosovska Mitrovica. Twenty five participants from 21 municipalities participated in the training. This was a basic training on Disaster Management which included the following topics: Risk Analysis, Contingency planning, Needs Assessment, Sphere handbook, Plan of Action, Budgeting and Reporting. Two DM coordinators from the RC of Serbia helped Regional DM coordinator with facilitation. DM department of RD, along with Pristina office, will continue to support development of DM structure in Kosovo.

Expected Result 2: By the end of 2006, the regional disaster management/contingency plan and linked procedures are in place.

The Regional Contingency Plan is one of the main topics of the Regional DM coordinators' meeting that is going to take place in Albania in October 2006. NSs' DM coordinators are presently gathering information in their NSs on possible risks, human resources, emergency stock, custom procedures and other relevant issues that are of the huge importance for the creation of the Regional Contingency plan. DM coordinators of NSs from the Central Europe region work on creation of Contingency plan along with the Regional DM coordinator. The plan will be linked to the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) and its functions as well as to possibility of using neighbouring NSs' emergency stocks when disaster strikes.

Expected Result 3: Improved quality of disaster management planning in the region and in National Societies through close cooperation with the regional health and care, PCD, organisational development programmes and ICRC.

Close cooperation continues with organizational development programme at the RD. As part of capacity building efforts, two joint OD/DM workshops for branch directors and key staff from HQ of the Romanian Red Cross will take place in November 2006.

Expected Result 4: A network of trainers in community based VCA/ PCD methodologies will be functioning in the region.

DM department of Regional delegation has been developing RDRT roster of NSs' staff and volunteers for several years. With their different skills and experience they could contribute to efficient and effective disaster preparedness and disaster response activities within the region. This roster also includes persons with VCA and PCD training and experience. The first half of the year was devoted to training of new RDRT members, but at the end of the year and beginning of 2007 much more attention will be given to VCA/PCD methodologies and joint trainings.

Expected Result 5: By the end of 2006 Regional Disaster Response Team is consolidated, with clear roles and responsibilities, equipped and responding efficiently in case of disaster.

Water/Sanitation (Wat/San) training

Macedonian Red Cross has Wat/San capacity to respond to disasters in the region, due to several trainings and experience gained in deployments (in Macedonia and joint international deployment with Austrian Red Cross/Swedish Red Cross/Macedonian Red Cross) to Tsunami response in Indonesia. In order to maintain operational readiness of Macedonian RC for emergency deployments another basic training for beginners was conducted. The Wat/San training was held from 22 to 30 September 2006 in Macedonian RC training centre Struga, with support from Austrian Red Cross (local branch Steyr) providing funds and facilitators. The training was mainly covering water topics, from Berkefeld treatment unit to Oxfam tank and distribution. Less emphasis was put on sanitation.

DM department of RD has developed an excellent cooperation with the Austrian RC in Wat/San trainings. This training in Macedonia, like the two similar trainings that were previously held in Macedonia in 2004 and Serbia in 2005, was used as opportunity to strengthen the capacity of some RDRT members in Wat/San. RD DM department sent five RDRT members (2 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1 from Serbia, 1 from Albania and 1 from Bulgaria) to participate in the workshop. Regional delegation has on its RDRT roster 13 members trained in Wat/San, out of which 4 RDRT members passed ERU Wat/San training which was organised by Austrian RC in Austria on 17-25 June 2006.

National Society	RDRT member	Basic Training	ERU training
Albania	1	1	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	3	-
Bulgaria	1	1	-
Croatia	1	1	1
Macedonia	4	4	1
Montenegro	1	1	1
Serbia	1	1	-
Israel	1	1	1
TOTAL	13	13	4

Regional Delegation DM department has also supported Wat/San training of the NSs' staff who are not RDRT members but have technical expertise and interest in Wat/San. So far, four NSs' staff (1 from Montenegro, 1 from Bulgaria and 2 from Macedonia) participated in the basic Wat/San training in 2004 and 2005, while 2 NSs' staff (1 from Croatia and 1 from Serbia) participated in ERU Wat/San training in Austria in June 2006. Together with RDRT members from their countries, they represent a base for Wat/San network in the region that the RD is aiming to encourage and set up.

Reporting in disasters workshop

There was a big need for a reporting person during the last flooding in Central Europe. Although there are very good reporting staff within the region, they could not be deployed due to obligations in their country delegations. Consequently, the RD had to deploy a reporting person coming outside the Europe. In order to avoid such situations and to strengthen cooperation between regions among Europe, DM department of RD initiated organization of Reporting in Disasters workshop for RDRT members, along with the Regional Reporting Unit in Ankara. Four Central Europe RDRT members (2 from Montenegro, 1 from Bulgaria and 1 from RD Budapest), who have skills in reporting, participated the Reporting in Disasters workshop, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 28-29 September 2006. With such training it is hoped to ensure a group of people who could be deployed and help with reporting skills to each of the above mentioned regions if need be.

RDRT missions

The Romanian Red Cross, supported by RDRT members deployed from the region, continued distribution of food and hygiene parcels, water and sanitation activities– including latrine building in the camps for those made homeless by the floods. Three RDRT members (Relief) from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Romania and one from Israel (Wat/San) were deployed in Romania in June and July 2006, supporting the relief operation related to floods that occurred in April 2006. At the end of July, RDRT and the international water and sanitation delegate

ended their missions in Romania. From 1 August the Romanian RC is managing the operation, with continuing support from the RD.

Expected Result 6: The regional disaster management programme is throughout 2006 providing continued support to National Societies in their work with the Stability Pact DPPI.

The Flood Experts' Meeting was held in Sarajevo on 13 September 2006. Throughout the debate, the participants focused on the most prevailing challenges related to flooding in the region and suggested and agreed upon future operational steps that need to be undertaken to mitigate those challenges in the most feasible and efficient manner such as:

- Create harmonized strategy for flood prevention in the region
- Encourage further development of the early warning and alarming systems throughout the region
- Encourage the development of bilateral and multilateral agreements necessary to create the legal framework for data exchange
- Encourage joint training activities to enhance the cross border response
- Enhance institutional prevention readiness through joint capacity building projects.

Impact

Based on the request made by the RD, the NSs in the region are releasing their RDRT members and skilful staff to work within and outside the Central Europe Region. Such NSs' support to the work of RD and neighbouring NSs could be seen during the time of disasters and disaster preparedness activities such as regional trainings and simulations.

Constraints

Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Response plans in some countries have to be modified and updated as soon as possible, based on the lessons learnt in emergencies that occurred in 2005 and first half of 2006. Health issues and capacity building in emergencies need to be much more integrated in DM especially at NSs' level.

Organizational Development

Overview

During the reporting period, overall implementation of the Organizational Development (OD) programme has been according to the plan.

Appeal budget was revised in June in order to reflect balance carried forward from last year, and income received from the Norwegian RC for the Macedonian and Albanian RC project applications. Furthermore, revision occurred due to unexpected request for support from the Macedonian RC related to strengthening of the network, performance and accountability. The time for support and intervention is appropriate since the NS leadership is ready and committed to start implementing the new NS development plan. The Swedish Red Cross pledge to the OD programme is very much appreciated since it provides necessary flexibility to decide what is the best way to support NSs' and to respond to some immediate or unexpected needs.

During the reporting period, the OD department of the RD was busy with preparation related to hosting the OD course being organized by OD department in Geneva. The course is due in early October and plans to involve 20 participants from different parts of the world. Extensive and fruitful meetings took place with the leadership of the Hungarian RC in order to involve them into number of sessions and exercise and to prepare the ground for the practical case exercise for the participants. The NS agreed to open its door to the participants of the course in order to do the organizational analysis of the Hungarian RC headquarters and some branches.

Programme Goal: Well functioning National Societies working efficiently and effectively to improve lives of vulnerable people.

Programme Objective: Stronger and responsive NS's with good image, finance management, planning, sustainable programmes, appropriate structure and people.

Progress/achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Expected Result 1: NS governance and management have improved skills to lead and contribute to achieving characteristics of a well functioning National Society.

During the reporting period, advice and consultancy has been provided to NSs' leadership upon request or as a part of planned change process (mainly Macedonia, Poland, Latvia, Romania). These included guidelines, tolls, policies, facilitation process and training support. Sharing of good practice is one of the most powerful tools among NSs especially after the knowledge and experience-sharing meeting held in Budapest last December. As a result, the NSs continue to be more proactive in requesting specific support such as statutory matters, assessment of the branches and branch development, branch development indicators, finance and human resource management. Work still needs to be done in building-up on the positive experience so far and in finding solution for utilizing identified strengths.

Long-term planned change process in the Latvian and the Polish RC are in line with planned activities and the NS are in a driving seat. For more details related to Latvian and Polish RC, please see expected result 4 and 5.

The Macedonian Red Cross undertook serious exercise within the organization in order to assess real capacity and situation in all the branches. By using different tools, questionnaires, semi-structured interviews and field visits to all the branches the Macedonian RC did excellent analysis of its network. Results will be used as a basis for further planning of support in the area of branch development. An extensive report is produced also in English.

The long-term planned change process in the Romanian RC came to an official end last year. However, problems related to leadership and management, internal communication and high turnover of staff remain. Capacity Building Fund (CBF) agreed to extend time frame for implementation of planned activities until the end of the year. In November this year RD and Romanian RC will organize two meetings/brainstorming workshops with all branch directors and headquarter staff in order to increase level of understanding and information sharing among Romanian RC branches and headquarters and hopefully to ensure common approach to joint responsibilities. The planned activities will be used as a kick-off for the new round of change process at the Romanian RC. Emergency flood operation that again affected Romanian RC this year was used to build capacity of the NSs in the field of reporting, administration and HR practice.

Expected Result 2: NSs have a strategy and income plan leading to financial sustainability of programmes.

Seven people from three NSs participated in the fundraising workshop/conference held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in September. Main organizer of this workshop was the Community Development Foundation "Mozaik" in Sarajevo. This workshop/conference was an excellent opportunity for Red Cross people to see how the other NGOs are working and what they do in the area of fun-raising. Red Cross participation in this kind of events proved to be important both in terms of knowledge gained and in terms of presence that reminds all other newly emerged NGOs that the RC is the largest humanitarian actor.

Information sharing about different EU calls for proposals continues to be one of the RD activities. Although, donor NSs are very much interested to be the partner under different applications to EU, there is a limited response to participate from the NSs of the region. Possible solution to overcome this problem is that RD provides technical support, mainly people to help putting together project proposal for the grants that are in line with Global Agenda and NS priorities. RD supported the Danish Red Cross and Federation office in Belgrade recruiting a consultant to help prepare the project proposals with the Montenegrin Red Cross. The proposal is now being prepared and will be submitted soon to the European Agency for Reconstruction.

As a consequence of a serious integrity problem at the Bulgarian RC, the Secretariat in Geneva has responded to the NS's request to provide support in auditing internal management and decision-making procedures. The Institute of Internal Auditors Bulgaria conducted internal Control Review. Summary of the report is translated into

English and together with the Plan of Action submitted to Europe Department and Audit and Risk management Department in Geneva. It is not defined yet what will be the course of action in the future in Bulgarian RC since the judiciary process against the President is still ongoing.

RD Budapest as one of the partners together with Association of Chief Executive Officers of Voluntary Organizations (ACEVO) based in UK, applied for a grant to European Commission under the call for proposal "Capacity building for active citizenship". Unfortunately, "ACEVO", Federation and other partners were not granted.

Expected Result 3: National Societies have appropriate human resource structures, policy and management for both staff and volunteers.

Due to repeated disasters and continuing high turnover of staff at the Romanian RC, the originally planned engagement of consultant to help with the HR issues did not take place. However, disaster relief operation was used as an opportunity to introduce new salary scale, best advertisement practice and recruitment procedure. Experienced Federation staff worked on these with the Romanian RC leadership. However, in case of need of a consultant there is possibility to provide one.

Advice was provided to the Polish RC in HR related issues and a possible consultant was identified. In the same time, new Director General with support from the Board did personal development review and some changes in the HQ as a result of this process. Support is provided, both in funding and in advising, to the Bulgarian RC for the implementation of Volunteering policy. Pilot training for 10 selected branches started in June and will be followed by field visits through which basic features of volunteer management will be introduced. It is expected that until the end of the year results of this process will be analysed and further steps defined. The Bulgarian RC is taking active part in the European network for development of volunteering policy. In the coming period, discussions will take place with the Macedonia RC to identify needs for possible consultancy in the HR field.

Expected Result 4: Regional Delegation continues to provide support and consultancy to the Polish Red Cross in ongoing change process.

The Polish Red Cross long-term change process is in its third year in row now and implementation of the process continues as per plan. Following the change of leadership, revision of the Statute is in the process with focus on clarifying roles and responsibilities of the HQ and branches in the areas of planning, financial discipline and division of governance and management. The Polish RC is still facing serious financial problems combined with internal clashes within the organization between capital branch and HQ. New leadership is committed to resolve these problems and a number of measures were taken in order to cut some costs, to support endangered branches. Solidarity mechanisms are established within the organization aiming to create the fund from where existing debts of five biggest branches will be covered.

The Polish RC got some funding from Ministry of Foreign Affairs for development work abroad. They are supporting Azerbaijan Red Crescent and Moldova Red Cross in the areas of community development. This shows that the government trusts the Polish RC, however it is questionable whether there is sufficient capacity to monitor and oversee these projects. As a part of capacity building efforts, RD Budapest will support Head of Programme Division to participate in an OD course that will be held in Budapest in October 2006. The Finnish Red Cross invited the Head of Programme Division of the Polish RC to take part in the Basic Training Course for Delegates.

Operating time frame for the implementation of the CBF supported project was extended until the end of March 2007. Future cooperation and working relationship with the Polish Red Cross needs to be defined in the light of new Europe Federation structure and the fact that officially CBF support to the Polish RC will end soon. The question that needs to be answered is where the membership services will be provided from especially in the area of OD and capacity building.

Expected Result 5: Regional Delegation continues to provide support and consultancy to the Latvian Red Cross in ongoing change process.

Planned change process is in the consolidation phase (third year in a row) and the NS is taking more responsibility for its own development. RD continues to play the role of the resource centre and trusted source of information where the Latvian RC can find services needed. Reporting capacity of the NS increased significantly and quarterly reports for the CBF supported projects are done in time.

Majority of activities are done solely by the Latvian RC with very little input from RD. Following the Latvian RC request for support in introducing Participatory Community Development process (PCD), an experienced PCD trainer and facilitator supported the NS. Introduction to PCD methodology and training of trainers for the implementation of PCD were organized for three branches and key HQ staff. Large Group workshop will be organized in early December in one of three branches engaged in this process.

Operating time frame for the implementation of the CBF supported project was extended until the end of March 2007. Like in Polish RC case, future cooperation and working relationship with the Latvian RC needs to be defined in the light of new Europe Federation structure and the fact that officially CBF support to the Latvian RC will end soon.

Expected Result 6: Community based package has been developed and is supporting NS programme development.

Last year, RD planned to develop community-based package based on the experience and knowledge existing in the region. The RD has not worked on this, since Geneva Secretariat did a serious job in collecting different community-based tools all over the world and in putting together community toolbox. The RD plans to go through the toolbox and see relevance of the package in the regional context. The RD would do the process in the full consultation with NSs in order to find out how the toolbox can be adjusted and best used in the NS. Possible future actions could include testing of some features, adjustment, translation into different languages and training of trainers. This is feasible to happen during the next year.

Impact

The most significant changes in the area of OD are visible in improved working relationship with the NS. Atmosphere of openness, transparency, closer working relationship and more proactive, daily contacts between NS and RD are the main features that support all other efforts and have high impact on the implementation of planned activities. Annual plans, reports and external audit reports are main sources of verification for all OD related activities and expected results.

The Macedonian RC succeeded in its efforts to develop a development plan with clear vision and mission statement. It has been disseminated throughout the organization in order to mobilize branches, members and volunteers to contribute to achievement of development plan. Effective and empowered leadership especially in the case of the Polish and the Macedonian RC contributed to the progress made so far in overcoming some of the identified problems and in putting into practice new initiatives regarding strengthening network, more transparent way of working and resource mobilization.

As a result of continuous efforts and daily cooperation with the Hungarian Red Cross it has been succeeded to improve relationship that is based on common interests, understanding and willingness to cooperate. Even though the Regional Delegation is not covering officially the Hungarian RC, cooperation is useful and fruitful for both sides. This is good example that even in the situation when money is not involved it is possible to develop good working relationships. Since the beginning of 2005, RD is not supporting any programmes of the Hungarian RC financially since the traditional donors decided not to support any programme of the NSs belonging to the new EU countries.

Understanding of external trends, analysis of the environment and surrounding is a regular exercise undertaken by the NSs when they work on strategy development, annual planning and operational planning. Global Agenda and features of the Federation of the Future are widely disseminated within the region through leadership and planning meetings, and meetings with PNSs. Regional exchange, peer support and knowledge and experience sharing are already in place, but in future plans too. NSs are more interested to establish informal networks that are needed to respond to the short and medium term specific needs.

Constraints

Some of the formal networks, namely youth network established many years ago, are not efficient. One of the reasons is that the initiative at that time came from the Delegation and not from the genuine NS interest. However, currently the Macedonian RC, together with some other NSs, would like to revive youth network in order to provide a platform where youth initiatives can be more based on common interests and can be of benefit for all parties involved. There is a need for the RD Budapest to follow-up on this and to support the initiative.

Participatory Community Development

Overview

The implementation of the Participatory Community Development Programme (PCD), supported by the Norwegian Government and Norwegian RC funds, continues in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro. At the same time, Romanian and Bulgarian RC have been supported by the British RC funds. This has enabled the Romanian RC to start the PCD programme in two regions affected by trafficking, while the Bulgarian Red Cross has finalized the PCD project with Arab women and currently continues with one PCD programme in a mixed community with Roma minority. The Latvian RC, supported by the RD OD department is presently implementing PCD. During the reporting period all NSs have been focusing on the micro projects and field work (please see table below, under expected result 1).

During the reporting period, visits went ahead to Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Tajikistan.

The RD is providing consultancy and coaching to the Tajikistan Red Crescent in implementation of the pilot PCD project, funded by the Finnish RC. The Albanian Red Cross did not take part in the programme as planned due to lack of capacity.

Programme Goal: Local vulnerable communities are empowered and have capacity to cope with the challenges of vulnerability and its root causes through participation and community action.

Programme Objective: NS in the region are working with the local vulnerable communities in participatory way aiming at reducing vulnerability and strengthening the process of social integration of marginalized groups.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Expected Result 1: PCD programme is implemented in at least 5 NSs in the region by the end of 2007: for the benefit of people exposed to poverty and discrimination such as Roma, forced migrants, vulnerable minorities and other marginalized groups within local communities.

The PCD program cycle was successfully implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro during 2006 for the benefit of people exposed to poverty and discrimination such as Roma, forced migrants, vulnerable minorities and other marginalized groups within local communities. The table below shows which phase the National Societies of the region are currently in regarding the PCD micro projects implementation:

Region	Community	Type of community	Status	Comments
MACEDONIA				
Tetovo	Potok and Tejke	2 Roma communities, Albanian speaking and Macedonian speaking	Micro-project for establishment of Youth education centers implemented. <i>Project objective:</i> The level of general education is raised and the capacity of the youth is improved	Premises (contribution from the communities), equipment and materials for the courses were provided; Trainers were provided for the courses and training programmes prepared; Roma language (53 youngsters) and

		(urban)	in computer communication and their active participation and inclusion in the community.	English language course (98 youngsters) and computer training course (41 youngsters) organized.
Karpos	Dame Gruev	Roma community (urban)	Micro-project for support of the development of the children from preschool and school age. <i>Project objective:</i> Alleviation of fear and the possible consequences among children with handicap and stigmatisation in the education system for creation of an adequate and solid base for their future inclusion in the education process. <i>Expected result:</i> Developed social skills of the children for fast and simple inclusion in the education process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Office material, provided equipment, TV set, overhead projector, foils, screen etc. were supplied; - 20 day training seminar held for 17 trainers: teachers, medical and social workers, Red Cross volunteers, representatives of NGOs and the local community; - Curriculum prepared on education, health-prevention and safety-prevention. - 6 workshops organized (30 classes each) for children at the age of 5-10 on basis of the prepared programme adapted for groups of 10 children; - The necessary office and other material provided. Some of the items (kid toys) provided as donations by the population.
Kavadarci	Straso Pindzur	Roma community (urban)	Micro-project for literacy and additional literacy training. <i>Project objective:</i> Decrease of illiteracy and insufficient education of the population in the area of health and social welfare is decreased - 18 children are included in the regular education system. - The health culture of the population in the vulnerable community is raised.	<p>Classes held every working afternoon to 4 school classes in each group in the premises of the primary school;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 groups trained, programs elaborated on literacy training, additional education, health education, psycho-social education and prevention of delinquency and delinquent behaviour; - 36 members of the community gained literacy training, 12 members of the community gained additional education and 18 children are provided with school books and included in the regular education system.
SERBIA				
Serbia	Ruma	Rural/urban Roma community, at the suburbs of the city; very bad living conditions	The micro project was finalized at the end of July 2006.	Foot-path out of the Roma community elaborated and the communication between the Roma people and other citizens in the city re-established, on a daily basis. Living conditions have improved. The awareness of the general public towards Roma people and their conditions of life has increased.
Serbia	Novi Beograd	Urban area; School for disabled children; total 160 pupils, of them 60% are Roma	The micro project was finalized at the end of September 2006	Repaired school yard and place for sport activities in the primary school in Novi Beograd. The tolerance and understanding between the Roma children and other pupils in the school has increased. Parents, teachers and pupils developed new way of cooperation for benefit of all children in the school and in the community.
MONTENEGRO				
Montenegro	Niksic	5 Roma communities, urban area	The separation of Serbia and Montenegro had a strong effect on the coordination of the PCD project. Some activities of the micro-project were revised and improved; more focus was brought to health activities. The micro-project continues.	The activities include health education and activities, medical examination of the Roma people from the 5 communities in Niksic, education activities, training of young Roma leaders, and support to the civil society (Roma NGOs).

CROATIA				
Ogulin (Western Croatia)	Puskarici	Rural Roma community, 105 inhabitants living in inadequate dwellings, families with many children	2 Micro-projects implemented by the community and the PCD team; activities ongoing	Microprojects: - improvement of hygiene conditions in the settlement and procurement of sanitary equipment - projects with Roma children aimed at their better integration with non-Roma children: Project: "3,2,1...GO!"
Darda (Eastern Slavonia, close to border with Serbia)	2 Roma communities in Darda town, 2 km distance from each other	Ethnically urban mixed community, majority Roma, 458 inhabitants (249 children)	2 Micro-projects implemented, PCD team continues its activities with the community	Micro-projects: - sewing and tailoring course for Roma women - renovation of community room - educational activities for children in the community room - activities of other members of the community, as per their interest
BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA				
Old Herzegovina	Foča	Bosniacs and Serbs community (rural)	Micro-projects implemented.	A community multi-function centre is built by the local people. Part of it will be used for a room for medical check ups and treatment, a social centre for the elderly and children, a facility to collect and dry herbs and for various community activities.
Tuzla Canton	Kalesija	Roma and Bosniacs	Micro-projects implemented.	A children playground has been established on a former waste disposal area. Trash bins were distributed to the families, several hygiene campaigns carried on. Children from the majority population, living in other areas will have access to the playground in Roma district, also involving the local school.

All involved National Societies have allocated human resources, equipment, facilities, and premises for the community work. In all countries and communities the local authorities, institutions and in some cases businesses contributed to the micro-projects for the community benefit. To a very high extent this is a result of the very good image of the Red Cross, but also of the involvement of the stakeholders in all project activities. For example, for all micro-projects in **Macedonia** the local authorities provided the needed premises and infrastructure for the work with the illiterate Roma children while the local population contributed with private donations. In **Serbia** the local contributions were estimated to be 11.000 EUR (local donors and contribution of larks for 2 micro projects). In **Montenegro** the local hospital has provided the equipment for medical check ups of the Roma families, the RC volunteers (medical doctors) have carried check ups of the Roma population with their own equipment while the volunteers (teachers) have been constantly working with the Roma children with their own books. In **Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the local company constructing the children playground in the Roma district donated part of the materials and some amount of work for free while the municipality provided the land. The greatest input in all the cases was from the RC volunteers and the local people, who actively participated as a main stakeholder in all steps of the programme. Various local NGOs were involved as partners in most of the local PCD projects, contributing with dedicating their time, human resources and expertise. The only exception was in communities, where local NGOs do not exist. For example in **Ogulin, Croatia** a very good cooperation is established with the local Roma NGO, jointly using the National Programme for the Roma (adopted in 2003) as an advocacy tool to the authorities to promote potential projects and initiatives by the Roma communities aiming to improve their life conditions.

Besides the NSs mentioned in the table above, the RD supports or monitors closely the progress in the NSs of Romania, Hungary and Latvia where new PCD projects have been established during the reporting period. The Romanian RC continues with PCD programme implementation targeting vulnerable people in isolated rural areas with 2 new projects targeting the population vulnerable to trafficking being established. Bulgarian RC continues with the projects focusing on forced migrants and street children while starting a new project in a Roma community. The Hungarian Red Cross is maintaining the contact with the experienced PCD branches in the

country, actively looking for further support to the programme. The Latvian Red Cross started a pilot PCD in distant rural communities with Russian minority.

Expected Result 2: Vulnerable people are empowered and encouraged to advocate for themselves through the PCD programme cycle.

The whole PCD concept lies on the principles of the vulnerable community being the main stakeholder with focus on its needs. The decisions are made in consensus with the final decision belonging to the community, where the ownership is. The stakeholders are equal and everyone has the right to speak and be heard. More attention and support is provided to those with the lowest social status.

The involvement of the vulnerable communities in all implementing countries, the high level of ownership and contribution from all involved partners are a clear indicator that these principles have been followed. The local vulnerable people have spoken, they have been heard and participatory action is in place to respond to the needs.

Expected Result 3: Red Cross reinforces its advocacy role on behalf of vulnerable and socially marginalized groups such as Roma people, people exposed to poverty, disabled persons, other minorities, persons living with HIV/AIDS, victims of human trafficking.

A preparatory meeting for presenting a position paper and guidelines for work with Roma to the NSs of Central Europe, West Europe and other stakeholders was held in June in Belgrade, gathering representatives of the Serbian RC, Federation country delegation, RD, Norwegian and Danish RC. Follow up meeting was held in Belgrade in September. The work of a number of NSs on the vulnerability of the excluded Roma population in the region has resulted in elaborating two important documents during the meeting. One is a Point of View paper of the Federation, on “Social inclusion of vulnerable Roma & other marginalized groups” and another one is a draft “Guideline on vulnerable Roma and other marginalized groups in Europe”. Both documents will be used as a tool for raising the awareness of the Red Cross Movement on the Roma issues and involving more National Societies in the activities related with supporting the Roma inclusion, reducing the vulnerability and discrimination towards this particularly vulnerable target group. The Federation Secretariat in Geneva has stated a strong support to the initiative and will seek opportunities of inclusion of the Roma issues in its international events. The members of the PCD Team from different National Societies participated in the September Roma meetings and many of the important experiences, included in the guideline based on the results of the PCD projects implemented in the respective countries. PCD approach is widely recognized as one of the most effective ways of working with Roma by the Red Cross National Societies in the region.

Expected Result 4: PCD resource team in the CE region is established and functional.

During the reporting period, PCD expert from Bulgarian RC visited NSs of Armenia and Georgia to assist in the improvement of the PCD programme while Regional PCD coordinator worked with the Tajikistan Red Crescent on the follow up of the PCD process. NSs of Serbia and Montenegro have new coordinators.

Expected Result 5: PCD package created at the RD is being used by NS within and outside the region in developing their community-based programmes.

The PCD package was widely used in the implementation of the PCD by all the above mentioned National Societies. It has been a very important instrument especially in the countries where the NSs implement a pilot PCD programme, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Latvia, Tajikistan, and also in Romania, where currently the PCD is expanding to two more RC branches, coordinated by the National HQ.

Expected Result 6: By the end of 2007, participatory development approach is integrated with health and care, DM activities in order to meet humanitarian needs and promote well-being of the most vulnerable individuals and communities.

The continuation of the efforts to integrate the participatory approaches of the PCD with other typical RC activities such as Health and Care, Disaster Management continues. Following last year’s VCA/PCD forum and spring PCD meeting that involved people with various background and experience the process continues in the NS

with the training and inclusion of PCD elements in the Home Care programme in Serbia. Macedonian RC continues to increase the use of PCD methodology in its social activities.

Since the PCD was a pilot in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina during 2005 and 2006, it is early to initiate a process of integration of PCD with other activities, until a sufficient experience is gathered by the National Societies and local staff and volunteers, who can apply the methodology and train others.

Impact

The impact of the PCD programme is local, in the vulnerable communities and the results belong to the volunteers, local people and all other stakeholders. The impact on the vulnerable people is in their life improvement (see the micro-projects above) and in the partnerships established which assure sustainability of the community action. The participatory approach proved to be the main instrument towards reducing the discrimination towards the vulnerable and marginalized people. It brings knowledge, experience, improves contacts among the stakeholders and builds the good image and transparency of the Red Cross.

Constraints

Despite the agreement with the Albanian RC to integrate the PCD elements with the capacity building programme implemented by the NS, it was not done due the lack of capacity to start the process. Further efforts to include Albania, (a country with significant numbers of very vulnerable Roma population and a very low standard of life generally) among the CE countries covered by the PCD programme will continue.

The release of the experienced PCD Coordinator of the Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro caused additional efforts to reestablish the communication (especially in the case of Montenegro) and to provide more support to the new PCD coordinators in the two countries.



Sewing and tailoring course for Roma women, Darda, Croatia, 2006

The Croatian RC faced in its pilot PCD project initial lack of trust by the local people often resulting from mistreatment and bad experiences with some Roma or other NGOs, media, false promises by many political actors or general discrimination practices. Time, continuous work with the vulnerable communities and involvement of various stakeholders helped to carry on the project activities successfully. Due to the above facts and also due to long years of humanitarian assistance, the general passiveness of the local people has been a challenge towards the ownership of the projects. Special attention was paid to the ownership of the projects and to provoking a positive response and local action.

While implementing the micro-projects the Macedonian RC faced difficulties to work with the children groups in Karpos area because of the big age difference (5 to 10 years old). This required much more time and efforts from the trainers to take an equal care of all. Additionally, Roma parents did not really know the needs and the potentials of their children, which further shows that there is a need to organize such and similar projects for raising the awareness of the parents.

Population Movement

Overview

Return areas in Croatia host significant number of former refugees and displaced persons who, after several years of displacement, need assistance immediately upon return and during their initial phase of reintegration. In the course of first six months of 2006, return of some 1,971 former refugees and former IDPs was registered by Croatian Government, making total of 121,391 minority returns and 218,844 returns of former displaced

persons, since the beginning of return process until 30 June 2006. Still a large number of refugees from Croatia reside in Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina and their return is an ongoing process influenced by various factors such as reconstruction of houses, property repossession, infrastructure rehabilitation, socio-economic situation, personal and family life decisions, etc.

Due to the general poor socio-economic situation in the return areas (unemployment up to 90% in some regions, poor economic infrastructure without significant prospects for rapid development), many people still live in destitute conditions and need assistance before they can sustain themselves. Local communities are slowly developing their structures and “natural safety nets” sometimes disrupted by war and its consequences.

Programme Goal: Croatian Red Cross is effectively working with the multiethnic communities in the areas of return in Croatia in order to reduce vulnerability and strengthen the process of social integration of returnees and other vulnerable persons.

Programme Objective: Multiethnic local communities within the return areas in Croatia have increased their capacities to integrate the most vulnerable returnee families and to ensure basic conditions for sustainable return.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Expected Result 1: Returnees and other vulnerable persons benefit from the small community mobilisation projects tailored to the needs of the community through participatory engagement in 5 local Red Cross branches in return area.

19 small community mobilization projects were implemented in 5 Red Cross branches since 2005. These branches are Slunj, Otocac, Ogulin, Korenica/Plitvicka Jezera and Nasice. The former one joined the programme in February 2006 instead of originally planned Ogulin branch, which did not have capacity to join. In these branches committees were established to assess the needs of selected local communities and plan small community mobilisation projects; they consist of representatives of the local RC, volunteers of a different ethnic background, returnees and other community members, local municipality representatives and NGOs if they exist in respective municipalities. Please see the following objective for more details about the projects being created.

Expected Result 2: Inter-ethnic social activities are taking place within the 5 local Red Cross branches, promoting RC Principles and reconciliation and thus facilitating social inclusion of returnees and other vulnerable persons.

Social and educational activities for children, youth, women and elderly were organized in the 5 RC branches. Computer course and workshop and playroom for children were organized in Slunj. Distribution of sewing machine and tailor course for unemployed women as well as educational and creative workshop for 600 youth took place in Ogulin. Equipment and tools for Upholstery and carpentry workshop were provided in Korenica, along with educational and creative activities for children and youth. In Otocac, 2 tool sets for wood working, 3 mills for grinding wheat were donated to returnee families. In Nasice, equipment for blood glucose and blood pressure tests were purchased to regularly check the glucose level and blood pressure of the beneficiaries with those medical problems. One chain saw, 3 motocultivators with ploughs and 1 fertiliser distributor were purchased and donated to a returnee family. Contracts were signed with the recipients, stipulating their rights and obligations toward the Red Cross and the community. 360 chickens were purchased and distributed to 12 families. 13 families received 2t of wheat seeds with fertiliser and again contracts were signed with them, stipulating their rights and obligations toward the Red Cross and the community. During June and September, lectures on eco-agriculture were organised for the returnees and other members of the community. Activities for children included puppet theatre performances for children living in remote places.

Expected Result 3: Referral system with the grassroots information volunteers and mobile teams further developed.

Volunteers based in the villages and local urban centres provided information, referral and assistance to returnees and other vulnerable community members (80-150 services monthly). Grassroots volunteers attached to the

respective local RC branches (3-10 per branch) regularly provide information and assistance to new returnees and other most vulnerable community members: how to obtain right to pension, social welfare, health insurance, house reconstruction, humanitarian aid, carrying out assessment of needs of returnees and referring those to relevant institutions and NGOs. The communication with the LRC branches in Serbia related to return issues is ongoing.

Impact

Good aspect of the programme is the involvement of volunteers who are members of the communities and have significant local knowledge and skills necessary to help the needy in their villages. Also, cooperation with other organisations and institutions proved to be crucial in achieving best possible results with small resources. Involvement and participation of the community members (returnees and others) in the process of planning and monitoring the projects and activities was promoted during the project. People of a different ethnic origin implement all activities. They work together in finding solutions for their common problems, they help each other to cope with challenges of daily existence and therefore the process of rebuilding trust and cooperation is facilitated which is of the utmost importance in the post-war context.

Constraints

During the programme implementation, it was obvious that the needs of the target communities are much greater than the capacity of the Red Cross to respond, so priorities had to be identified and small projects were implemented accordingly. Local municipalities usually do not have resources to mobilise their communities economically and initiate their greater development and it is difficult to believe that they will be able to do so in a near future.

Humanitarian Values

Overview

Despite the adoption of the Global Agenda Goals in Seoul in November 2005, and the commitment to focus on reducing intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promoting respect for diversity and human dignity through Red Cross programming, the Humanitarian Values programme is seriously under funded. The campaigns to reduce discrimination and intolerance for people living with HIV/AIDS and TB in the health/care programme, and the advocacy work for the most vulnerable communities (including Roma) within participatory community development (PCD) go some way to meeting this Global Agenda Goal. However, the key advocacy and promotional tool for the Federation in Europe – *The Bridge* magazine – requires considerable fundraising efforts prior to each issue. However the magazine continues to be funded by a handful of donors rather than reflecting the breadth and scope of the articles. The Humanitarian Values programme has received contributions from the British and Swedish RC.

Programme Goal: The human dignity of vulnerable communities and individuals in Central Europe is protected and respected.

Programme Objective: The protection of, and respect for, the dignity of vulnerable and affected groups is embedded in all NS programmes.

Progress/Achievements (activities implemented within this objective)

Expected Result 1: National Societies are recognized and respected as dialogue partners on national and regional vulnerability issues.

Through their programme activities, National Societies in the region are reaching out to media to show the difference they can make to the lives of the most vulnerable. The Macedonian Red Cross Promotion of Humanitarian Values programme is one example of how a National Society can make a difference. The programme has been running with the support of the Norwegian Red Cross and ICRC, working with school communities. It is not a typical high visibility relief programme which can attract media attention. However during the reporting period a news clip was made and broadcast by CNN about the programme.

At the height of the flooding in Romania in spring 2006, the National Society was the first humanitarian organisation in the country to call a coordination meeting, to ensure that responses to the situation was being coordinated. This put the Romanian RC on the map nationally, and enabled a discussion of vulnerability in the light of the flooding.

In June 2006, a preparatory meeting was held to prepare the way for a Red Cross and Roma meeting in September 2006. The September meeting resulted in finalizing a Point of View paper on the Red Cross and Roma programming – providing the institutional framework and support for leadership in addressing the issue of vulnerability in Roma communities. Practical Guidelines were produced to support technical staff working on such programmes, and drawing on the extensive experience in the region of working with Roma in the Participatory Community Development (PCD) programme. This will continue the work begun in the “Making Something Happen” review conducted by consultant Jim Henry – which looked at how National Societies and the Federation are approaching Roma programming. For more details please see PCD section of this report, expected result 3.

Expected Result 2: RD has supported NS to position them in response to human trafficking.

During the reporting period, RD has been working with the Romanian RC on a project, which plans to use PCD as a means to approach the human trafficking issue in two risk communities in Romania. By using a whole community approach, rather than targeting those at risk specifically, the project seeks to improve the general situation of the community as means to prevent young people from leaving. The British Red Cross supports the project.

The Macedonian RC may be able to draw on the experience of the Bulgarian RC in working with the victims of human trafficking. The Albanian RC is also looking at the issue of human trafficking, although not yet involved in the regional network. Some elements of prevention are implemented through its social welfare programmes, and there has been some coordination and cooperation at a national level with IOM. The budget in this programme has been reduced to reflect the current status of NS development in this field and realistic funding opportunities.

Expected Result 3: NSs are implementing anti-stigma and discrimination campaigns to support those living with HIV/AIDS and TB.

The activities under this expected result are reported on in the health/care section of the appeal. The key campaigns were launched during the TB week in September. It is planned that all NSs in the region will be implementing anti stigma campaigns by the end of 2006.

Expected Result 4: NS programmes are planned and implemented with a community based approach to PHV.

Relevant materials are shared with National Societies as they are produced, either by other National Societies or the Secretariat. No work has been commenced yet on developing a PHV module for the community based tools project, which is part of the regional organisational development programme. The Secretariat in Geneva has put together a community toolbox. This kit will first be analysed to see whether further work needs to be done in a regional context to supplement the kit.

Expected Result 5: Two editions of the Bridge magazine are launched each year.

Following the first edition of The Bridge magazine launched in spring, the second edition will be issued in December with the focus on the disaster management. It will be a Europe wide edition and it will cover range of issues such as Romania floods and the RDRT response, RC and climate change in Europe, Turkish Red Crescent ERU, Civil protection in the EU and others.

Impact

The RD is using all opportunities to ensure that new and emerging vulnerability issues are on the agenda at all relevant opportunities: at management and governance leadership level as well as technical programme manager level. This is an approach used across all the programmes. National societies are responding to this approach by looking at the experience of their neighbours and reflecting on how this can be adapted in their context. The

example of RC activities in responding to the challenge of human trafficking shows how all National Societies in the region are now involved to a greater or lesser degree in discussion and building capacity in the region.

Constraints

The main constraint in the programme are constant difficulties related to ensuring funding of *The Bridge* magazine, as well as capacity to work in more depth with developing PHV modules for inclusion in a range of programme training courses. The RD does not have a communications officer or delegate and has therefore cut the budget for the rest of 2006 in this respect. Promotion of humanitarian values will continue through advice given to National Societies on request, and sharing of existing resources and materials.

Implementation and coordination

The implementation and coordination of this appeal is governed by the Federation's Framework for Action which will orient capacity-building actions over the next five years, with the aim of building a well-functioning Federation network. The framework is a clear set of actions to reform and renew the Federation to ensure that it remains relevant and effective as an organization. This calls for collective leadership and accountability at all levels of the International Federation to succeed. Although this section was presented as a programme and log frame in the Appeal document 2006-2007, it has received no funding for activities set out in that log frame. The leadership meeting went ahead with funding from other sources – including organisational development and disaster management.

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

At the beginning of June 2006, the Regional Delegation hosted a leadership meeting for the senior governance and management of National Societies from the region. Facilitation was assured by the regional delegation together with senior management from Geneva including deputy secretary general and head of operations support department. The meeting focused on the Federation of the Future process: to look at how the decisions and approaches taken in Seoul in November 2005 are now being followed up in National Society planning and programming; to clarify the new concepts; to reach a common understanding of what the process means for the National Societies and the Federation in the region. National Societies clearly voiced their concern that scaling up in programming for them involves first scaling up in quality before the issue of quantity and reach can be addressed. The issue of operational alliances was taken up, with National Societies seeing a number of opportunities including responding to regional pandemics, developing longer term and sustainable frameworks for programming, and ensuring quality standards, but also a number of concerns, including the readiness of partners to accept National Society priorities

National Societies were also clearly concerned about the future support they can expect from the Federation in the light of geo-political changes, including accession to EU. The Hungarian, Latvian and Polish RC – also invited to the meeting as host National Society and those still benefiting from capacity building fund support – spoke out on behalf of those National Societies who no longer benefit from membership services provided by the regional delegation. They would very much like to see the link with the regional delegation renewed - and not just in relation to capacity building fund support – but extended to the whole range of membership services. These views are clearly reflected in the consultation process, initiated by the Federation Secretary General, to look at models of decentralization for the Federation.

The ICRC also participated throughout the meeting. Although the ICRC regional delegation in Budapest does not cover the same countries as the Federation, wherever possible the delegations work closely to ensure complementary approaches and support to National Societies. The regional delegation will meet with the ICRC cooperation delegate from Belgrade, who will have regional responsibilities in the future, again to look at complementary plans.

Following the British and the Swedish RC visit to the RD during the first half of 2006, Norwegian RC representative visited Macedonian RC in September. The purpose of the visit was monitoring of the programmes funded by the Norwegian RC as well as planning for the next year's support to the NS. It is clear from the Swedish RC that funding through SIDA will continue until the end of 2008. Open discussion with donors have been extremely beneficial in setting a clear timeframe by which the regional delegation will have to reorient its funding sources to ensure continuation of its support to the National Societies.

Work has already begun in that direction, with regular notifications of relevant calls for proposals sent to National Societies – including from EU, World Bank, EAR sources etc. The RD has also been in discussion with ACEVO, (the association of chief executives of voluntary organisations based in the UK), to look at how the two organisations can work for mutual benefit. An ACEVO representative gave a presentation during the leadership meeting, showing how NS leaders can access its services, develop leadership skills, access job shadowing and coaching opportunities. This relationship has also led to initial discussions with “Banca Intesa”, an Italian bank with branches in Hungary, Croatia, and Serbia & Montenegro. The bank is looking at ways to support the Red Cross in the countries in which it is established, and the regional delegation has been the broker.

International representation and advocacy

The Regional Delegation has been using the distribution of the *Bridge* magazine as an advocacy tool with key international organisations, embassies and other potential partners in the region. In this way the issue of migration and how the RC programmes are positioned to respond to this challenge has been highlighted. Also through its support in international disaster response, the RD has been involved in Romania in addressing vulnerability issues. Together with the Romanian RC, the RDRT members have been participating at meetings with key stakeholders – state and international organisations - nationally to ensure vulnerability is the key issue when responding to a disaster situation.

Within the programme areas, particularly health/care (with World Health Organisation, Global Fund for HIV/AIDS/TB and Malaria) and participatory community development (with NGOs and municipal authorities) the regional delegation is supporting National Societies in developing key contacts on the national level. Please see the individual programme areas for more information.

International disaster response

The Federation Secretariat has had several delegates and RDRT members on hand to assist the Romanian Red Cross. Working with Federation delegates and RDRT members, the Romanian Red Cross set up teams that were regularly deployed to the field, while continuing to deliver humanitarian assistance to the counties most affected by floods. The RDRT members with relief and water and sanitation profiles finished their missions at the beginning of July and the RDRT team leader and wat/san delegate at the end of July. The Romanian RC is continuing the operation with the support of the Regional Delegation in Budapest, and no further RDRT missions are envisaged. Support to produce the final report (both narrative and financial) may be requested by the National Society. Please see Disaster Management section of the document for more details.

Federation governance

With the postponement of the Europe Conference to May 2007, the regional delegation has not been involved in any pre-planning. However it is envisaged that during the coming reporting period, the regional delegation will be following up with National Societies in its region in preparation for the conference. It is hoped that the work on the development of a Point of View paper for leaders from the region, together with the practical guidelines on Roma programming, will find its way onto the Europe Conference agenda.

Management of the delegation

Due to the fact that the final decision about future Federation structure in Europe has not been made yet, the Regional Delegation continues to have long-lasting temporary arrangements when it comes to Head of Delegation and Programme Coordinator positions. At a moment Federation Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina is Acting Head of Regional Delegation managing whole regional team including Federation delegations/offices within the region (Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina) focusing at the same time on the relationship with the NSs' leadership. In the RD Budapest office Regional Organizational Development Coordinator is playing the role of Acting Head of Budapest Office managing Federation team on the daily basis.

The work on the regional human resource roster continues. This is a living document, and the regional delegation has asked National Societies to actively contribute to the profiles of experienced practitioners in the core areas who would be available for deployment to support other NS in the region.

During the reporting period, people from the roster have been deployed as RDRT members to Romania as PCD experts to Latvia, Tajikistan, Armenia, and Georgia. The next stage in the development of the roster will be to feature it on FedNet under the regional delegation Budapest section, which is currently under development. The regional delegation in Budapest will be the first regional delegation to work on its own section within FedNet, in order to share key information, documents and resources with National Societies. The roster will feature the names, expertise and reference background for individuals, although contact with persons on the roster will be through the regional delegation to ensure matching of needs and resources.

[Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA66001 - CENTRAL EUROPE

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/9
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA66001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisation al Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	588,824	969,235	221,549	2,208,772	269,617	4,257,996
B. Opening Balance	22,422	157,819	0	530,859	26,044	737,145
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>			11,475	0		11,475
<i>Capacity Building Fund</i>				89,105		89,105
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	47,370	63,160		20,975	2,015	133,520
<i>New York Office</i>				2,029		2,029
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>	129,545	149,475		537,532		816,552
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>		169,349	33,992	135,480	0	338,821
C1. Cash contributions	176,915	381,984	45,467	785,121	2,015	1,391,502
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>Capacity Building Fund</i>				40,000		40,000
C2. Outstanding pledges (Re				40,000		40,000
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>				0		0
C3. Reallocations (within ap				0		0
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>					55,800	55,800
C5. Inkind Personnel					55,800	55,800
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Miscellaneous Income</i>		1,037				1,037
C6. Other Income		1,037				1,037
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	176,915	383,021	45,467	825,121	57,815	1,488,339
D. Total Funding = B + C	199,337	540,841	45,467	1,355,980	83,859	2,225,484

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisation al Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	22,422	157,819	0	530,859	26,044	737,145
C. Income	176,915	383,021	45,467	825,121	57,815	1,488,339
E. Expenditure	-60,236	-246,382	-15,036	-743,350	-80,159	-1,145,163
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	139,102	294,458	30,431	612,630	3,701	1,080,321

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAA66001 - CENTRAL EUROPE

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2006/9
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAA66001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		588,824	969,235	221,549	2,208,772	269,617	4,257,996	
Supplies								
Construction Materials					21,920		21,920	-21,920
Clothing & textiles					31,600		31,600	-31,600
Food					415		415	-415
Seeds,Plants					2,687		2,687	-2,687
Medical & First Aid		783			5,694		6,476	-6,476
Teaching Materials	6,500				10,936		10,936	-4,436
Utensils & Tools					19,024		19,024	-19,024
Other Supplies & Services	910,589				7,379		7,379	903,209
Total Supplies	917,089	783			99,656		100,438	816,650
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	36,910		2,196		36,821		39,017	-2,107
Office/Household Furniture & E			1,002		12,444		13,447	-13,447
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	36,910		3,198		49,266		52,464	-15,554
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring			5		273		278	-278
Transport & Vehicle Costs	56,665	881	13,201	42	14,306	-144	28,286	28,379
Total Transport & Storage	56,665	881	13,205	42	14,579	-144	28,564	28,101
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	148,800	488					488	148,312
Delegate Benefits	106,619		1,209		312	76,595	78,116	28,502
Regionally Deployed Staff	415,842	468	1,554				2,022	413,820
National Staff	171,192	37,513	95,859	60	76,247		209,679	-38,487
National Society Staff	119,923	815	2,858		100,621		104,294	15,629
Consultants	120,900		2,634	9,254	8,244		20,131	100,769
Total Personnel Expenditures	1,083,276	39,284	104,114	9,314	185,423	76,595	414,730	668,545
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,230,151	44,809	70,203	219	169,015	-212	284,034	946,117
Total Workshops & Training	1,230,151	44,809	70,203	219	169,015	-212	284,034	946,117
General Expenditure								
Travel	192,772	14,425	21,379	316	42,176	1,012	79,309	113,464
Information & Public Relation	250,739	33,012	236	3,876	37,240		74,363	176,375
Office Costs	55,326	1,633	4,928		18,116		24,677	30,649
Communications	124,552	2,677	17,857	214	27,330	379	48,458	76,094
Professional Fees	5,527				5,751		5,751	-225
Financial Charges	28,221	-925	-3,035	78	3,580	-2,446	-2,748	30,969
Other General Expenses			600				600	-600
Total General Expenditure	657,137	50,822	41,966	4,484	134,193	-1,055	230,410	426,727
Program Support								
Program Support	276,770	3,915	16,015	977	48,318	4,975	74,200	202,570
Total Program Support	276,770	3,915	16,015	977	48,318	4,975	74,200	202,570
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		-80,258	-2,319		42,901		-39,677	39,677
Total Operational Provisions		-80,258	-2,319		42,901		-39,677	39,677
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	4,257,996	60,236	246,382	15,036	743,350	80,159	1,145,163	3,112,833
VARIANCE (C - D)		528,588	722,853	206,512	1,465,422	189,458	3,112,833	