

Appeal 2008-2009



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central Europe

Appeal No. MAA66001

Date: 14/12/2007

This appeal seeks 12,296,760 Swiss francs (USD 10,998,891 or EUR 7,452,582) to fund the planned programmes that are to be implemented in 2008-2009.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



Roma children and children from socially marginalized families participate in the Flower Carnival in Bela Crkva, Serbia. Photo: the Red Cross of Serbia.

Current context

While Central Europe as a region may not be as prominent in the news as it was during the conflicts of the nineties or in the period prior to some of the countries acceding to the European Union in the mid years of this decade, the region still has issues of Europe-wide importance. Every year severe flooding devastates homes and infrastructure claiming scores of lives and washing away livelihoods. As a case in point, around 13,000 people are still living in Red Cross tents in Romania following the severe floods that hit the country in spring 2006. Heavy snowfalls, land slides and earthquakes also cause disruption and damage to communities and drain scarce resources away from other areas of the economy. Summer 2007 witnessed a heat wave that left thousands sweltering in record high temperatures at the same time as other parts of Europe were also experiencing climate extremes. Such phenomena, as well as the traditional threats, are encouraging the National Societies of Central Europe to join the debates on how to meet these challenges as part of an overall scaling up of disaster risk reduction to make communities better prepared.

The poor socio-economic conditions of the region are reflected in the high unemployment rates. The CIA world fact book has them reaching 45.5 per cent in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 30 per cent in Serbia and Macedonia. Around 30 per cent of the population lives under the poverty line in these countries and in Romania and Albania it is 25 per cent. In Kosovo half of the population is unemployed, while 37 per cent is classified as "poor" and a further 15 per cent as "living in extreme poverty", according to a World Bank study from 2005. In such a climate of poverty, inadequate access to health services and low levels of health education HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis (TB) thrives.

Migration and other population movements, whether remnants of the conflicts of the 1990s- approximately half a million refugees and internally displaced people live in the region- or more recent phenomena like trafficking in human beings related to the poverty and corruption, have an impact on all the countries in some way. With Central Europe being at the crossroads of the continent, movement of people is not confined to just one region, but spreads to a much wider area.

Kosovo has been under direct UN administration since the 1999 conflict and the process to define its final status is reaching a critical point in late 2007. Different consequences can be expected, ranging from peaceful resolution that will not affect large numbers of people to a possible population movement that will require response from different humanitarian agencies, including the Red Cross.

Programme summary

The 2008–2009 programmes reflect the needs in the region and are based on the strategy outlined in the Federation of the Future and the work of the Red Cross organizations towards the goals of the Federation's Global Agenda, scaling up programmes, increasing the Red Cross capacity and strengthening its role in civil society. At the same time, the programmes put into practice the Istanbul Commitments made by the VII European Regional Conference in June 2007. These commitments see the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Europe pledge to address together vulnerability and the challenges that their communities face. Health and social care and addressing the needs of people affected by migration were the main issues of the conference and will be consequently addressed in the coming years through building stronger partnerships and alliances, and by advocating for the rights and needs of individuals and communities.

Disaster Management

Target population: 43,200

This programme strives to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and the impact of natural disasters. Central Europe has a firm foundation upon which to further build strong national disaster response mechanisms and a regional network with vast individual and institutional experience available. Foremost in this is the regional disaster response team (RDRT) which has been successfully responding to disasters both regionally and internationally for many years.

For 2008-2009, contingency planning, risk reduction and community based disaster preparedness will be strengthened, utilizing the human and material resources in the region. The populations living in disaster prone areas, and school children in general, will increase their awareness and appreciation of risk reduction through a variety of activities run by the National Societies. Disaster management coordinators, staff and volunteers as well as staff from governmental bodies will be trained and receive advice and peer support to develop their knowledge, experience and skills, and hence lead to more effective disaster response.

Health and Care

Target population: 30,000

Work around preventing and controlling infectious diseases, mainly HIV and TB, and ensuring the effective recruitment of voluntary non-remunerated blood donors will be expanded, primarily through networking. Vulnerable older people will benefit from the home care programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia while the social welfare activities targeting marginalized and vulnerable Roma and children with disabilities will lead to their increased integration into their communities. Reproductive health and good parenting education, with special attention on women

in Kosovo and Albania, will contribute to improved access to quality and gender sensitive services. The community based first aid programme aims to build the capacity of the National Societies to reduce vulnerability in times of emergency.

The regional representation will act as a bridge builder and promoter of best practices and lessons learned and will foster cross-regional cooperation in the area of health and care. Furthermore, a regional health and care strategy focusing on the specific situation and needs in the region while building on the existing *Global Health and Care Strategy 2006 – 2010* will be progressed.

Organizational Development

Target population: 350

The priorities of the National Societies in the region are focused on strengthening their governance and management, statutes and resource development. The Federation in Central Europe will provide assistance in these fields to the National Societies that have embarked on a comprehensive change process by coordinating the contribution of consultants in technical areas. Where National Societies have expressed a need for capacity building assistance outside of a comprehensive change process, the Federation has taken care to ensure that this support is clearly integrated within general programme development.

Through stronger National Societies the capacities of local communities and civil society to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability will be improved. Partnership at the community level is an important part of contributing to impact at the local level, and this will continue to be an important feature into 2008-2009.

Participatory Community Development

Target population: 5,000

This programme works with socially excluded groups and underdeveloped communities, while promoting respect for diversity and human dignity and striving to reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion. The programme aims at increasing the capacities of communities, civil societies and National Societies to cope with vulnerabilities and their root causes.

The programme will expand its focus to cover a wider scope of vulnerable and socially excluded groups, while maintaining the work with the Roma. In 2008 and 2009 victims of human trafficking, older people and vulnerable isolated communities will be included in this programme. Moreover, stronger emphasis will be put on developing a participatory approach in other programmes in post-disaster recovery. The vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) methodology will be more tightly integrated into all programmes dealing with vulnerable populations in the coming two years, notably in the scaling up of work in disaster risk reduction.

Population Movement

Target population: 11,500

The Europe Conference of 2007 called for migrants, regardless of their status, to be supported in developing a sustainable future. This programme, run in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, works with refugees, returnees, asylum seekers, but also with members of vulnerable local communities such as the elderly and children in rural areas to reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion. It strives for reintegration and to develop social and community networks.

The target populations will receive agricultural tools and machinery, seeds as well as vocational training and education. Small community mobilisation projects and inter-ethnic social activities within the local Red Cross branches are created to promote reconciliation and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles. For people in unfamiliar surroundings, information and referrals are vitally important and the Red Cross has the capacity to provide them.

Humanitarian Values

Bearing in mind the existing needs and capacities, as well as the commitments of the National Societies from the VII European Conference to "address the needs and vulnerabilities of people affected by migration in order to better protect, support and assist them", the Federation in Central Europe will continue providing much needed support to the regional National Societies in their efforts to address the vulnerabilities, strengthen the networks and develop projects that promote these values.

This will mean looking at challenging the behaviour both within the Red Cross and in communities, to break discriminatory practices and to ensure that the work of the Red Cross is open to, and embraces, all communities and groups in any given country. The work with Red Cross youth on reinforcing their capacity and motivation to respond to discrimination, intolerance and violence, essential in post conflict areas, will be scaled up by encouraging them to participate in Red Cross activities at all levels.

Coordination

The Federation will continue to utilize the best practices and experience available in the region through its human resource roster. This is a pool of experts drawn from all the regional National Societies, some from outside the region and from the Federation representations in the region. The regional representation coordinates the best use of regional resources, involves the National Societies in relevant processes or programmes, and acts as a broker of knowledge and experience sharing. Regular opportunities are created for regional meetings in which National Societies' leadership have a forum to discuss key governance and management issues, planning and funding in the region, and to promote learning opportunities.

The current Federation structure in Central Europe consists of the regional representation based in Budapest which supports and coordinates the Federation representations in Sarajevo, supporting the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina; in Belgrade, supporting both the Red Cross Societies of Montenegro and Serbia; as well as in Pristina which supports the Red Cross organizations in Kosovo. Detailed support plans for these National Societies are linked to this appeal. Additionally, the regional representation provides direct support to the National Societies of Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia and Croatia. As of the 1 November 2007, the National Societies of the Caucasus countries, namely the Armenian Red Cross, the Azerbaijan Red Crescent and the Georgian Red Cross are supported from the regional representation in Budapest. A separate appeal, [Southern Caucasus \(MAA69001\)](#), is launched presenting the work these National Societies need support to carry out in 2008-2009.

Needs

The table below presents the financial needs to fund the planned programmes for 2008-2009. The priority for funding is the health and care programme which has in recent years faced a severe shortage. This being in spite of the needs being significant, and the National Societies having strength and expertise in this field which would flourish with some tailored coordinating.

Programmes	2008 budget in CHF	2009 budget in CHF	Total budget in CHF
	Total Required Budget	Total Required Budget	Total Required Budget
Disaster Management	1,253,834	1,185,320	2,439,154
Health and Care	2,773,513	2,583,986	5,357,500
Organizational Development	1,959,069	1,704,427	3,663,497
Population Movement and Humanitarian Values	139,412	139,412	278,824
Coordination	278,893	278,893	557,786
Grand Total	6,404,721	5,892,039	12,296,760

Working in partnership

The long-term nature of the majority of programmes outlined in this appeal and the efforts to integrate them into the wider context necessitate work with different partners. The National Societies and the Federation will strengthen global and regional cooperation within and outside of the Movement. Building on existing partnerships, and exploring new ones, this will include:

- Local and national authorities responsible for disaster preparedness, response and health and care;
- Health institutions, schools, the police, places of worship, local businesses and non-governmental organizations;
- As the National Societies in the region seek to define their role, responsibility and position in the national disaster response plans, the Federation in Central Europe advocates with the Stability Pact Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI);
- The ministries of health and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the national blood transfusion centres, TB and HIV and AIDS institutes; the Global Network on People Living with HIV and AIDS;
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nation High Commissionaire for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Health Organization (WHO);
- The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation which works with the Roma and children with disabilities in Serbia and Montenegro, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the municipal disaster preparedness project and the home care programme in Serbia;
- The Swedish, Norwegian, British, Finnish, Italian, Austrian, Danish and German Red Cross Societies.

How we work	
<p>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 (Sphere) 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</p>	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.• Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.• Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.• Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
Contact information	
<p>For further information specifically related to this Appeal, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia: Olav Ofstad, Country representative; email: olav.ofstad@ifrc.org, phone +387 33 66 60 09 (Sarajevo) or +381 11 32 82 202 (Belgrade).• In Kosovo: Gunther Pratz; Head of Office; email: gunther.pratz@ifrc.org, phone: + 381 38 228 400.• In the Regional Representation, Budapest: Elias Ghanem, Regional representative; email: elias.ghanem@ifrc.org, phone: + 36 1 248 3300; fax: + 36 1 248 3322.• In the Europe Zone, Budapest: Leon Prop, Deputy Head of Zone; email: leon.prop@ifrc.org, phone: + 36 1 248 3324.	

[Click here for the Budget summary;](#)

[Click here to access the detailed 2008-2009 plan for the Budapest regional representation's support to the National Societies of the region and here for the planning and resource summary matrix](#)

[Click here to access the detailed 2008-2009 programme support plan for the Red Cross Societies of Serbia and Montenegro and here for the planning and resource summary matrix](#)

[Click here to access the detailed 2008-2009 programme support plan for the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina and here for the planning and resource summary matrix](#)

[Click here to access the detailed 2008-2009 programme support plan for the Red Cross organizations of Kosovo and here for the planning and resource summary matrix](#)