

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Central Europe (Focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Appeal No. MAA66001

31 August 2008

This report covers the period 01/01/08 to
30/06/08



Training session for volunteers in Jajce, March 2008.
Photo: International Federation

In brief

Programme purpose: The strategic goal of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' office in Sarajevo is to support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen and achieve the highest possible degree of self-sustainability in terms of organizational functioning, in the provision of quality services to the most vulnerable, and in increasing the capacity of the local community and civil society. The main programmes within the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina are all aligned with the Global Agenda Goals and contribute to enhancing the efforts within disaster management, health and care, organizational development and the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, the latter being integral part of the other programmes.

Programme summary: In order to consolidate achievements in programme areas, over the last three years more emphasis has been placed on organizational development, particularly governance and management, statutes, financial management and fund-raising. The work has primarily been funded through the International Federation's appeal, from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and from sister National Societies. The National Society is the only humanitarian organization to cover the whole country and its establishment in 2000 is regarded as an important step in the reconciliation process. In the first half of 2008, main Federation-supported activities were:

- Within disaster management the National Society's focus was on establishing well-functioning and well-trained national as well as regional disaster response teams.
- Health and care efforts centred on blood donation and first aid, and in particular in continuing the home care programme and to ensure its quality and continuation. A pilot project was carried out to improve the programme and to explore new opportunities.
- Within organizational development much attention was devoted to the implementation of the

National Society's statutes. During the general assembly in June it was decided that the election of a new president for four years will be held in November. A secretary general was not engaged due to lack of quorum, meaning an extraordinary general assembly may be needed to this end. Other important focus areas within the programme were capacity building and youth exchange visits.

- Fundamental principles and humanitarian values were integrated in all programmes although youth activities targeted humanitarian values directly.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is lacking funds and experience decreasing interest from donors which put considerable fiscal constraints on its activities.

Financial situation: Total 2008 budget for Central Europe (MAA66001) was initially 6,404,721 Swiss francs (USD 5,822,474 or EUR 3,965,772). The revised budget is 6,229,682 Swiss francs (USD 5,663,347 or EUR 3,857,388), out of which 59 per cent covered. The overall 2008 budget for the programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 1,500,000 Swiss francs. Other programmes under this appeal are run by the regional representation in Budapest, the country representation in Belgrade, and the Federation office in Kosovo and are reported on in separate programme updates. The revision of the appeal budget is due to a slight decrease in the budget of the Federation office in Kosovo from 868,055 to 693,006 Swiss francs.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

No. of people we help: A total of 5,000 beneficiaries were supported through Federation-supported programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. 60 per cent were women and 40 per cent men. 75 per cent of the beneficiaries are over 60 years of age.

Number of people we help	Gender %		Age %	
	Male	Female	Up to 60	60 or more
5,000	40	60	25	75

Table 1: Number of people we help

Our partners: The National Society cooperated and coordinated their efforts with a total of 10 community-based organizations, 20 national organizations, and 3 government-based organizations. Within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the National Society and the Federation representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina worked with six sister National Societies and the International Committee of red Cross (ICRC).

Context

Bosnia and Herzegovina has experienced good progress in reconstruction, social integration and state building in recent years. Steps have been taken towards peace and reconciliation and there are ongoing efforts to establish a new national constitution which would form the basis for increased cohesion and countrywide cooperation. Steps have also been taken to bring the country closer to Europe, and in June Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a stabilization and association agreement with the European Union (EU). Along with its work towards EU membership, the country also intends to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) and acquire membership in NATO's Partnership for Peace programme.

Economically there are also positive signs with an annual 5 per cent growth rate since 2000. However, substantial socio-economic challenges still loom as poverty is widespread. In 2005 approximately 20 per cent of the population was living below the poverty line and it ranked 66 on UNDP's human development index (HDI) surpassed by countries like Belarus and Romania, but slightly above Macedonia and Albania.

Multiple groups are considered as particularly vulnerable due to various reasons and have different needs. More than one-third of the population are unemployed, especially youth of whom almost two-third are unemployed; pensions are under the official threshold of relative poverty making elderly people a particularly vulnerable group; people dependent on social welfare allowances and people with disabilities with a limited safety net; a high number of displaced people and minority groups face discrimination and exclusion; human trafficking has emerged as a potential risk, especially to women; and increasing world food and energy prices, exacerbated by a recent introduction of VAT, adds to the hardship the vulnerable experience.

To face up to the country's socio-economic challenges the government is currently completing its national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and is about to start implementing it. The strategy paper specifically aims to achieve financially sustainable growth; ensure social stability by reducing unemployment and poverty; create conditions for full EU membership before the end of the decade; and create conditions for greater participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the global economy.

In addition to political and socio-economic issues, natural phenomena such as flooding, drought, heavy snow falls and landslides hit Bosnia and Herzegovina almost every year, causing a variety of humanitarian challenges. In recent years the country has experienced heat waves leading to deaths and health threats, forest fires and water shortage. Global warming and climate change indicates that the incidence of these phenomena will not decrease in the near future, but rather intensify. Furthermore there is increasing public awareness of risks such as industrial accidents, the increase in road accidents and increased population movements. The level of poverty and the existing vulnerabilities in the country increase the destructive effects of natural and man-made disasters for the most vulnerable.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s): The National Society has increased its disaster response capacity at the national level and has provided assistance to minority returnees.

Disaster response

Totally 20 emergency response teams were established at branch level, and the training of members which was conducted throughout 2007, continued in the first half of 2008. In addition to already occurring emergencies and disasters, potentially aggravated by global warming and climate change, poverty and already existing vulnerabilities make community-based preparedness and response increasingly important.

A well-functioning network with neighbouring National Societies was established with the support of the International Federation and several training sessions took place in the region. Several staff and volunteers were trained as regional disaster response team (RDRT) members in Mostar in May, and three members of the National Society took part in a RDRT training of trainers covering vulnerability and capacity assessment in Albania in June. Furthermore, two team members took part in training on water and sanitation in Macedonia in May, organized in cooperation with the Austrian Red Cross.

The National Society actively participated and achieved a clear role in establishing and developing national disaster response plans.

Population movement programme

The population movement programme was conceived immediately after the war to assist and encourage minority returnees to resettle in their places of origin. The National Society has continued the programme since with the support of external donors. The National Society has ten mobile technical teams serving the returnees, covering five regions and five cantons. Two of the teams were funded bilaterally by the Italian Red Cross. Although needs are still present among returnees, the

number of people returning has decreased significantly, allowing the National Society to include other groups in need such as sick people without adequate support. Thus the programme targeted the vulnerable part of the population in general in addition to returnees. Furthermore, the programme contributes to enhance the effectiveness of other programmes, especially the home care programme, as the two are complementary. The National Society is currently exploring the possibility of merging the two programmes into one.

Constraints or challenges

The main challenge for the National Society within the disaster management programme is to raise sufficient resources to ensure proper training and necessary equipment. It has also proved difficult to hire a disaster management coordinator in the Red Cross entity of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Owing to financial shortcomings activities were postponed or cancelled. Positively the Norwegian Red Cross continued to support some local branches' preparedness efforts bilaterally. The funding situation for the population movement programme, including funds from external donations, has decreased. Hence the National Society faced multiple difficulties in maintaining this and other programmes operational.

Health and care

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s): The capacity of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide public health education campaigns has increased and the effectiveness and sustainability of the home care programme has been enhanced.

Tuberculosis

As part of a five year project within the framework of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), particularly focusing on the TB component, four mobile teams in Tuzla, Una Sana, Banja Luka and Bjielna promoted prevention of TB, and a TB team was established at headquarters level. Some 500 volunteers contributed in identifying and controlling potential and actual cases of TB in 10 cantons.

Blood donation and first aid

The National Society's engagement in blood donation activities continued and was implemented in most of its branches. The National Society is among the partners in the Adriblood project mainly funded by EU and partly by the Italian Red Cross. The project aims to establish a network to facilitate the exchange of experiences and create synergies to the benefit for the National Societies. Additional objectives are to train operators and increase the awareness among the population for the need for voluntary blood donation. Other regional Red Cross partners in the project are the Albanian Red Cross, the Croatian Red Cross, the Red Cross of Serbia and the Red Cross of Montenegro.

New legislation authorizes the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina as the sole organization to provide first-aid training for learner drivers. Courses for drivers are held in most branches. The exclusive right to provide the service is an income generation opportunity for the National Society and a percentage of the income is earmarked the society's headquarters.

First-aid competitions were organized all over Bosnia and Herzegovina with Red Cross youth participating actively. Furthermore the National Society intended to send one first-aid team to the European first-aid competition in Ireland in July. The National Society's efforts within first aid received contributions from the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates.

Home care

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina continued its home care programme in cooperation with the Italian Red Cross, providing quality services, food and hygiene parcels to vulnerable elderly people. Activities were implemented in nearly all local branches. For the beneficiaries this support is of vital importance, although nationwide needs for such services by far exceed the outreach of the programme.

In response to an evaluation by the International Federation in 2006 a pilot home care project was designed and implemented in 10 local branches including: Bihac, Bosanska Krupa, Jajce, Kozarska Dubica, Pale, Rogatica, Sanski Most and Sokolac. The project aimed at identifying procedures and methodologies for consolidating and improving effectiveness of the home care programme. Four recommendations were implemented aiming at:

- Increasing volunteers' participation in home care activities
- Engaging local branches together with local municipalities to provide home care services according to quantified standards
- Implementing fund-raising activities locally to cover the expenses of services provided
- Developing a centralized beneficiary database

Of all Federation supported programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina the most significant progress was made within home care. The pilot project, which defined a new basis for the programme, contributed to reaching approximately 5,000 beneficiaries and the initiation of new fund-raising activities allowed for some branches to increase their prospects for future sustainability of home care activities. Furthermore, the objective of developing a beneficiary database was achieved. Thus, the achievements within the home care programme show that the objectives set out in the pilot project are being reached.

Activities implemented through the home care programme are closely related to population movement programme activities. While the former provides uniforms for members of mobile technical teams, both programmes make use of the same teams to distribute parcels. Furthermore, increased fund-raising capacity and the beneficiary database will benefit other National Society programmes as well, thus having a potential impact beyond the home care programme. The Italian Red Cross confirmed that it will continue to support the programme for the remaining part of 2008.

The programme is being revised and discussions on a possible merging with the population movement programme are ongoing.

Constraints or challenges:

To varying extents funding remains the main concern for all programmes of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, within health and care, the home care component is better funded than other health activities, given the support from the Italian and Swedish Cross. Nevertheless, available funds may decrease as the latter society is ending most of its support at the end of 2008.

Organizational development

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s): National Society management skills and structures have been improved with increased volunteer and programme capacity at all levels.

Statute development and implementation and capacity building

Implementation of the National Society statutes and consequent reinforcement of the headquarters operational capacity remain at the core of the society's focus within organizational development. After extensive preparations and discussions involving ICRC and the International Federation a general assembly was held in June. Unfortunately the assembly failed to elect a president and to get the quorum needed for employment of a secretary general. This issue will be followed up by the Movement as a joint concern in autumn 2008.

The National Society was granted three years of support through the Capacity Building Fund of the International Federation, aiming at strengthening its programme management capacity in general and income generation in particular. Furthermore, staff have been trained in planning and project implementation and several training sessions for local branch staff and especially volunteers took place in the first half of 2008.

Youth development

Youth activities have increased. In the first half of 2008 exchange visits for young volunteers between local branches in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Italy took place, also including Norwegian Red Cross branches. A group of five youth volunteers attended the torch march in Solferino in June.

Constraints or challenges

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is reliant on multilateral support from the International Federation and ICRC as well as bilateral support. These sources of funding may, however, decrease in the coming years. The reconstruction of the National Society's headquarters remains a priority, but concrete plans must be developed for technical work and the utilization of the building.

The National Society possibilities to search for new or expanded funding are limited by its human resource capacity and cumbersome management structure. The idea of a possible regional project on disaster preparedness based on EU funding was discussed internally, but due to the lack of competent personnel this could not be done. The International Federation is however ready to offer extensive and tailor-made support when required. The National Society did, however, manage to develop an application and was granted financial support from the Capacity Building Fund.

Humanitarian values

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s): The fundamental principles and humanitarian values have been promoted and the awareness among the population has increased.

Promotion of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values, as well as profiling of the National Society, is integrated in all Red Cross programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Presently the communication capacity of the National Society is limited and is partly depending on support from the International Federation and ICRC. Hence making use Federation and ICRC information channels are required for promoting humanitarian issues and network building as well as knowledge sharing.

Friendship without Borders (FWB) is a bilateral humanitarian values programme supported by the Norwegian Red Cross aiming at building friendship and understanding between Red Cross youth from the Balkan countries and Norway. Annual summer camps have been organized since 1998 during which humanitarian values have been promoted, network between Red Cross youth strengthened and friendship and collaboration enhanced. Youth from National Societies in the region are actively involved in organizing the camp, which this year is being held in Sutomore, Montenegro in August. In preparing for the camp youth from the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been focusing on the following objectives: the Red Cross youth network is strengthened; diversity among people is highlighted and valued; and friendship across borders is built.

Constraints or Challenges

The National Society was not able to implement its 2006 statutes which would replace the rotating leadership system with the employment of a secretary general and the election of a president for four years. Slow progress on these issues is preventing the development of a strong national leadership and effective implementation of the National Society's strategy. Thus the International Federation and ICRC are cooperating with the National Society to overcome these challenges.

Working in partnership

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina worked through many multilateral and bilateral partnerships within the Movement in implementing the programme activities:

- The International Federation supported the National Society financially and technically, including funds from the Capacity Building Fund and in implementing its statutes.

- ICRC provided support to the tracing service, on mine awareness, safe access, disaster management, organizational development and health development with emphasis on first aid.
- The Swedish Red Cross supported the home care programme and contributed with unearmarked health support funds.
- Italian Red Cross supported the home care programme, the population movement programme, youth exchanges at branch level and delegate support.
- The Norwegian Red Cross supported organizational development, disaster preparedness at branch level and provided delegate support.
- The United Arab Emirates Red Crescent contributed to organizational development and bilaterally supported work with orphanages and schoolchildren in areas of Sarajevo.
- The Spanish Red Cross bilaterally supported orphanages and youth programmes at branch level as well as the promotion of humanitarian values.
- The Swiss Red Cross provided bilateral support to branch development, local community development and home care.

The National Society also cooperated with numerous actors outside the Movement including:

- National authorities at different levels were main partners within disaster management.
- Key partners within health and care were the Ministry of Health, national blood transfusion centres, HIV and AIDS and TB institutes as well as GFATM. These partnerships enabled the National Society to contribute to the national poverty reduction strategy which feed into the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- The National Society worked closely with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) within the TB component of GFATM.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) were partners in small projects targeting refugees, including dissemination among children.
- The National Society cooperated with the World Health Organization (WHO) in connection with the National Society's work towards HIV and AIDS.

Contributing to longer-term impact

More than twelve years after the war ended, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is not completely stable. The unification process is ongoing and the economy is still recovering. A positive aspect is that people who left during the war, are still coming back to the country and that some external investments have taken place in the last years. Social exclusion and poverty, especially among elderly people, remain matters of concern. In the current evolving situation the long-term strategy of many actors, also institutional, is still unclear.

Services provided by the Red Cross to vulnerable people, in particular to elderly people, make a real difference in the short and middle-term, creating a foundation for further improvement in the long-term when all state structures are fully operational. The Red Cross, with its volunteers, has been, and still is, a major contributor in the fight against poverty in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The participation in regional disaster management trainings contribute both to the National Society's and the region's long-term disaster preparedness capacity. Endeavours within health and care, especially through the home care programme, may benefit other programmes, thus indicating cross-programme and potential long-term impacts. Especially in the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina all the National Society's activities may be considered as valuable and constructive contributions to ongoing processes of reconciliation and creation of political unification.

Looking ahead

Local and international funding is significant for the National Society's programme development and implementation. The probable decrease in external funding has, however, to be met with efforts to

generate income by the society. Such efforts have already been initiated within the home care programme. The National Society's implementation of its statutes and the 2006-2010 strategy will be an essential task in the time to come with implications for all the society's undertakings.

In addition to the International Federation and ICRC the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina continued or initiated six new partnerships within the Movement in the first half of 2008. The home care programme managed to develop activities which can also benefit other programmes. The National Society will continue its work within capacity building with funds received from the Capacity Building Fund in 2008.

Furthermore, the society will be encouraged and supported in establishing and joining global as well as operational alliances, including the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Alliance on HIV. The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is already working within the GFATM platform.

Fundamental principles and humanitarian values are integrated elements in other programmes and are thus promoted through these. The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina has, however, included principles and values as components in a separate humanitarian values programme in the 2009-2010 plan thus indicating a more focused and intensified approach. In working towards reconciliation and political unity, this step is considered as a valuable contribution to these efforts.

How we work	
<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	
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