

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Kosovo

Appeal No.MAAKV001
31/08/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/2009 to
30/06/2009.



On 8 May the Red Cross volunteers organized many activities such as drawing competition with the slogan "Our world your move". **International Federation**

In brief

Programme purpose:

All Federation supported programmes in Kosovo are aligned with and contribute to the Global Agenda goals as well as the priorities of the Red Cross organizations. The main emphasis of the Federation work in Kosovo is on supporting the Red Cross organizations in developing their operational capacities to better respond to the basic needs of the most vulnerable people. More concretely the funds received aimed at contributing to and strengthening the Red Cross's existing efforts within health and care by improving health conditions among women and children through the education of volunteer health instructors; disaster management by building the capacity of the volunteers to better respond to disaster situations; organizational development including youth development by building capacity of staff and volunteers to improve their performance; principles and values by assisting Red Cross to provide basic support to the returnees from Sweden, who are basically rejected asylum seekers.

Programme summary:

The International Federation together with the Red Cross organizations achieved several of the planned objectives and a number of long-term development issues were initiated.

The Red Cross in Kosovo continued its activities through its family health education project. The project is considered one of the most effective projects within the organizations and an increasingly important sustainable component of the health and care programme as a whole. It contributes to further developing and extending the already strong network of trained health instructors who reach the most vulnerable people in rural areas with health education courses. In total 127 local Red Cross voluntary health instructors were trained, mainly women. Through the instructors the Red Cross reached out to populations in rural areas by conducting totally 104 family health education courses

reaching almost 1,700 people.

Another project implemented and supported by the Canadian Red Cross starting in 2008 and completed during the first quarter of 2009 was targeting Roma children and mothers in Grace village of Vushtrri municipality.

The International Federation assisted the Red Cross organizations in Kosovo to provide basic winterization support to some 1,320 most vulnerable families in 22 municipalities. This was supported by the German Red Cross financially with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs as back donor.

With the initiative and support of the French Red Cross the International Federation managed to improve the living conditions of five most vulnerable families of Skendraj region through house rehabilitation.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget was initially CHF 806,595 and it was slightly revised to CHF 799,260. The current budget has a 70 per cent coverage. Overall expenditure versus received funding is 44 per cent.

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

No. of people we help: During the first six months of 2009 in total 3,863 people benefited directly from Federation supported programmes implemented by the two Red Cross organizations. Including people reached indirectly¹ almost 19,315 people were reached in total.

Programme Update January-June 2009 – Kosovo		
Programme	Target groups	People reached
Disaster Management	Vulnerable families, Red Cross volunteers	1,355
Health and Care	Women in rural areas, youth; health education trainers	2,101
Organizational Development	Red Cross staff and volunteers including youth	377
Humanitarian Values	Returnees; single female-headed households; youth; elderly without family support	30
Total number of people reached		3,863

Our partners: The International Federation office in Kosovo cooperates and coordinates its activities with a number of different partners be it within the the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement or others such as the British Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, German Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN agencies, and local and central authorities.²

Context

Kosovo has been under direct United Nations administration since 1999. On 17 February 2008 the Kosovo assembly announced its independence from Serbia. Kosovo is still undergoing a process of social, economic and political transformation and has a high unemployment rate. Moreover as much as 44 per cent of the population is living in poverty and 15 per cent is living in extreme poverty.³ The political, economic and social situation has been dominated by the issue related to the status of Kosovo during the last years. Consequently little or no progress has been

¹ Indirectly reached here refers to family members of people reached directly.

² Additional partners are mentioned throughout the report.

³ Second Millennium Development Goal Report for Kosovo, 2007. UNDP

made on vital internal issues and limited progress within health, social welfare, economics and education has taken place.

The population is particularly vulnerable when it comes to health risks due to a number of problems including the lack of access to safe drinking water; poor nutrition; poor hygiene and low levels of health education and promotion; different post-conflict psychosocial problems; and limited use of health services. Old and new health problems in Kosovo are increasing including tuberculosis (TB), HIV and AIDS. The infant mortality rate, maternal health and the decline in immunization coverage are areas of particular concern. Maternal health has for long been a concern due to the health system as well as lack of knowledge about family and reproductive health issues. The limited data available on the health status in Kosovo suggests that it ranks among the lowest in Europe. The current situation in terms of public health stems from the 1990s when the public health infrastructure suffered a complete breakdown.

The actual health system in Kosovo is not able to cover even the basic health needs of the population so there remain significant needs in the distribution of health services and health information. During January 2009 in the village Studenqan in the municipality of Suhareka 40 cases of hepatitis were detected and the Red Cross responded by providing safe drinking water to the affected population.

Due to the current situation regarding Influenza-A (H1N1) the Red Cross of Kosova has organized two one-day orientation meetings in May in Pristine and Gjakova to share information about the influenza pandemic. In total 26 secretaries and 52 volunteers from 26 branches participated in the orientation meetings. The facilitators were from the Institute for Public Health.

Roma people in Kosovo are living under very difficult conditions and are among the most vulnerable. Roma communities are experiencing marginalization through little or no access to income generation and few opportunities to generate further income; very high unemployment; lack of education; lack of access to cultural events; and lack of access to health services and other basic public services. Roma children are facing exclusion, marginalization and discrimination in schools and are in some cases not allowed to attend public schools.

The Red Cross organizations in Kosovo are required not only to continue, but to increase their efforts as humanitarian actors in targeting the needs of the most vulnerable. The organizations are, however, experiencing insufficient funding.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme component 1: Disaster management planning

Component outcome 1: Central and branch level disaster contingency and response plan developed and coordinated with the authorities

In the first half of 2009, the Red Cross organizations in Kosovo, with the support from the International Federation as well as German Red Cross continued building its capacity in disaster risk mapping and contingency planning in the branches. Two trainings on risk mapping and contingency planning were conducted with 48 volunteers from 12 branches participating. This will strengthen the capacity of the respective branches to conduct risk mapping and result in having contingency plans at branch level.

The International Federation and the Red Cross of Kosova participate in regular meetings with the department of emergency management within the Ministry of Interior in order to define the

role of the Red Cross of Kosova in disaster management in the Kosovo context. The outcome of this exercise will facilitate the Red Cross of Kosova to play its due role as auxiliary to the local authorities. In addition to this, the Red Cross of Kosova also participates in municipal level disaster coordination meetings organized by the municipal disaster management department.

With the support of the International Federation the disaster management coordinators from both Red Cross organizations participated in the South East Europe climate change workshop, organized by the Montenegro Red Cross in cooperation with the Montenegro government institution, Austrian Red Cross and supported by the International Federation and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

Programme component 2: Organizational preparedness

Component outcome 1: Basic disaster response teams have been created and are able to effectively respond to disaster situations.

The International Federation supported the Red Cross of Kosovo and Methojia in conducting a disaster response team training. A total of 22 participants attended composing two disaster response teams. The facilitators came from the Red Cross of Serbia. Other activities to be implemented under this outcome are planned for the second half of 2009.

Programme component 3: Community preparedness/Disaster risk reduction

Component outcome 1: Increased awareness of the community on the potential risk from disasters.

House rehabilitation

The French Red Cross carried out an evaluation in June 2008 to offer a systematic and objective assessment of the quality of the projects carried out by the French Red Cross in the Balkans from the start of the Kosovo crisis. One of the findings was that by and large the implementation of the above project is satisfactory in Kosovo, but some of the support provided to the beneficiaries for the repair of their houses is not enough and therefore, some of those houses repaired under the project are at present in depleted condition and need urgent repair and rehabilitation.

On the basis of the above recommendations the French Red Cross agreed to provide assistance through the Federation office in Kosovo, to repair and rehabilitate some houses of the most vulnerable families who cannot afford to get these repairs done. Five most vulnerable families of Skendraj region are supported through house rehabilitation. The rehabilitation work is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2009.

Winterization assistance

Every year in Kosovo the month of November brings with it cold weather and temperatures below zero with heavy snowfalls. Especially in remote mountain areas, which often become inaccessible, many vulnerable families are affected due to their already poor living conditions. Supported by the German Red Cross financially with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs as back donor, and the International Federation operationally, the Red Cross organizations in Kosovo provided winterization support to some 1,310 families in 22 municipalities.

As goods were purchased at lower prices than expected the Red Cross organizations managed to reach 550 and 760 families respectively through two rounds of distribution. Items were distributed between December 2008 and January 2009 by local Red Cross branches. The type and total amount of items procured and distributed during the two rounds of distribution were:

Municipalities covered	Total amount of items distributed	Families and persons reached
22 municipalities (covered by 22 local branches)	32,750 kg wheat flour; 2,620 kg sugar; 2,620 kg sunflower oil; 1,310 blankets; and 1,100 cubic metres firewood	1,320 families / 6,650 persons* (550 and 760 families respectively)

Table 1: Summary of achievements for the project Save Life over Winter providing winterization items
*The number of persons reached is based on an average of five members per family.

Health and Care

Programme component 1: Community-based health including maternal and child health

Component outcome 1: Increased knowledge and access to appropriate information about family health issues including good parenting, reproductive health/ family planning and better practice to prevent diseases

In order to address the current health conditions in Kosovo, particularly those related to health education, the Red Cross organizations continued implementing their family health education project. The project is considered one of the most effective projects within the organizations. It is also considered an increasingly important sustainable component of the health and care programme as a whole. It contributes to further developing and extending the already strong network of trained health instructors who reach the most vulnerable people in rural areas with health education courses. The project is supported multilaterally through the Federation office by the Canadian, Swedish, Norwegian and British Red Cross Societies. Also UNICEF in Kosovo is supporting the Red Cross of Kosova bilaterally in the implementation of the above project.

More concretely the project aims at providing basic education on family health issues such as prenatal and natal care, family planning and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and at empowering people to act in a preventive manner in their daily lives. In an environment where public health services do not cover even basic needs, this is of great importance.

In order to enhance the family health education project of the Red Cross, with support from the International Federation and British Red Cross a health survey was conducted in four municipalities in Kosovo, in Vushtrri, Skenderaj, Malisheva and Obiliq. The aim of the survey was to measure the potential for impact on health conditions in communities. The questionnaire for the survey was developed by the Federation, British Red Cross, and the Red Cross of Kosova. The questionnaire was first piloted in the field and based on the outcome the questionnaire was finalized. The sample size among Albanians, Serbs and Roma communities was 665 people. The survey was closely monitored by the Federation and the Red Cross of Kosova with technical support from British Red Cross. It is expected that the final report from the survey will be finalized and shared during the second half of the year. The survey will assist the Red Cross organizations in updating and revising the health education courses in Kosovo.

Assisted by the Federation office in Kosovo both Red Cross organizations conducted refresher training of trainers for voluntary health instructors certified by the Institute for Public Health. In total 135 trained health instructors participated in the trainings. Around 90 per cent of the instructors were female.

These trained health instructors have conducted health education courses to the most vulnerable people with a special focus on women. During the reporting period, the local Red Cross conducted 104 family health education courses with almost 1,700 participants benefiting directly and almost 8,500 indirectly when including family members of the former. Consequently, through its extended network of trained health instructors conducting education courses the Red Cross organizations were able to increase the awareness on public health issues among the population confirmed by pre- and post-tests during every course.

Another project implemented was targeting Roma children and mothers in Grace Village in Vushtrri municipality. The Red Cross organized family health education courses. Activities implemented and targeting Roma children focused on recreational and educational activities, while activities targeting Roma mothers mainly focused on educational activities. In total 100 volunteers took part and 35 children, women and men participated in the activities. Signs of successful implementation were that participants regularly attended the activities and showed great enthusiasm. Furthermore, through the project the women became more socialized and less isolated, and took more responsibility for their children and their families. Also the children socialized more, became more educated and got better manners.

Programme component 2: Increase awareness and reduce stigma associated to HIV through awareness session and social mobilization among youth.

Component outcome 1: Increased awareness about the risk of HIV and AIDS among youth

The implementation of this component will start in July 2009. The Red Cross organizations will work to increase the awareness about HIV and AIDS and drugs, improve health behaviour and reduce stigma among targeted youth population. In order to achieve this, the International Federation will support the Red Cross organizations to improve their capacity for ensuring development and delivery of qualitative peer education on HIV and AIDS among young population. This will be supported by the Italian Red Cross through the International Federation.

Organizational Development

Programme purpose:

Better functioning Red Cross organizations with improved performance to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable people

Programme component 1: Improving National Society leadership capacities to develop and implement strategies, to ensure good performance and accountability

Component outcome 1: Improved performance based on policies and procedures

The International Federation supported the Red Cross organizations to improve their performance based on their existing policies. This support helped them to implement micro-projects mainly by youth volunteers.

The Federation office supported the implementation of four small projects implemented by youth volunteers in four Red Cross branches. The projects were "Road Safety" (awareness raising of drivers as well as children about traffic rules); "Smarter Kids" (dissemination in primary schools about the Red Cross and its principles through games as well as awareness raising about hygiene); and two projects on "HIV and AIDS among youth" (raising awareness about HIV and AIDS among youth in schools). Many activities were implemented by using different tools such as: questionnaires, posters, leaflets, materials for drawing, playing, and demonstrating.

Through these small projects the Red Cross youth managed to practice the knowledge gained through the two-year project supported bilaterally by the Finnish Red Cross. Since 2009 Finnish Red Cross is providing assistance to the youth work in Kosovo through multilateral support through the Federation office.

The Federation supports the youth centre in one branch of the Red Cross of Kosova. This centre was initially supported by the British Red Cross bilaterally and since 2009 continues through the Federation. The branch youth volunteers prepared a plan for implementing activities during 2009. They started the implementation of the project for home care for elderly people living alone in remote areas. The project is in its initial phase of implementation.

Component outcome 2: Better understanding of roles and responsibilities of governance and management at all levels

Two one-day trainings were organized for the Red Cross of Kosova governance members. In total 52 members participated in the training. Participants during the training were able to better understand their role as presidency members as well as the management role.

This year the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement marked many important events: 150th anniversary of the battle of Solferino; 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and 90th anniversary of the International Federation. In order to mark these events, the International Federation office in Kosovo as well as the International Federation's Europe zone office supported both Red Cross organizations to organize many events such as exhibition "Humanity in War" with the pictures showing the history of the Movement, pictures showing Red Cross activities; blood donation corner in cooperation with blood transfusion centre; first-aid demonstration and competition from secondary school youth; drawing competition with the slogan "Our World, Your Move"; and lectures in the primary and secondary schools.

The Federation also supported the printing of promotional materials all with the slogan "Our World, Your Move". Both the Federation and ICRC representatives greeted the participants. In order to mark the battle of Solferino, the ICRC together with the Embassy of Switzerland organized a reception where many governmental, UN and EU representatives, embassies, and NGOs participated. On 8 May the delegation of different representatives from the Red Cross, the Federation, ICRC and the Embassy of Switzerland in Pristina visited the Henry Dunant monument. The event was enriched by the high number of volunteers marching in T-shirts with the slogan "Our World, Your Move" and distributing brochures, posters and leaflets.

Based on its statutes the Red Cross of Kosova organized its general assembly meeting on 27 June 2009. The assembly approved the amended statutes of the Red Cross of Kosova and also approved the four-year financial and narrative report as well as the draft plan and budget.

The Red Cross of Kosovo and Metohija organized branch level working assemblies to be followed by their central working assembly in July 2009.

The Red Cross of Kosova is in the process of finalizing its draft Red Cross law, which they have submitted to the Ministry of Health for finalization. The vetting of the Red Cross law was completed by the legal department of the Ministry of Health legal and is transmitted to the Prime Minister's office for further processing.

Programme component 2: Ensuring a well-functioning organization with sustainable systems and procedures, and staff with the desired level of managerial and technical competencies

Component outcome 1: Improved organizational capacity through human resource management system and procedures

During the first half of the year, the International Federation supported the Red Cross of Kosova in drafting the Code of Conduct for volunteers, members as well as staff. The code of conduct was approved by the central presidency. This is the first code for the Red Cross of Kosova that was drafted and approved.

The Federation office conducted training for Red Cross of Kosova headquarters staff in reporting. After the training, all programme coordinators started preparing monthly narrative reports that were shared with both the Federation and ICRC. There is a visible improvement in their reporting skills.

Component outcome 2: Improved finance management capacity and reporting system

The Federation office in Kosovo is planning to start the process of improved finance management system for the Red Cross of Kosova with the support of Europe zone finance department during the second half of the year.

Programme component 3: Increasing capacity for programme development and management

Component outcome 1: Better-functioning Red Cross organizations with long-term development plan.

The process for developing long term development plan is planned to start in the second half of the year. However, the outcome is not expected to be fully achieved during this period as it is a long-term process.

Component outcome 2: Increased knowledge and understanding of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values

The promotion of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values is an integrated part of all programmes in the two Red Cross organizations in Kosovo and thus a natural element in all trainings conducted by the Red Cross.

Principles and Values

The International Federation with support from the Swedish Red Cross started a pilot project on returnees in Kosovo in the second half of 2008. The aim of the project is to develop an efficient system of information gathering, to provide pre-departure counseling, to give support to especially vulnerable returnees and to monitor the conditions after their return, and to initiate and develop further support activities facilitating their re-integration in Kosovo. During the first half of 2009 the Federation together with the Red Cross of Kosova continued a lot of information gathering by communicating and networking with other stakeholders and government authorities, local and international NGOs and agencies.⁴ The Federation prepared a returnees guide containing basic information they might need upon return which will be printed in the second half of the year. As this is first time that Red Cross in Kosovo is assisting the returnees from any country, their capacity needs to be built. The Federation together with Swedish Red Cross experts started planning several trainings for Red Cross volunteers and staff. So far several returnees were assisted by the Federation and the Red Cross of Kosova with basic humanitarian assistance. They were also guided about where they can get documents like ID card, how they can register children in school, and what health and social services are available in Kosovo.

Constraints or Challenges

There were no major challenges nor constraints that hampered the overall implementation of the programme activities in Kosovo. However, it must be emphasized that there is still sufficient room for assisting both Red Cross organizations in Kosovo in order for them to be able to respond better to the needs of the most vulnerable people. The International Federation will strive to provide this support in order to build the organizational and operational capacity of the Red Cross in Kosovo in the coming years.

⁴ The project involves an impressive range of actors: Red Cross of Kosova, Kosova Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims, Kosova Women's Network, European Commission, UNDP, UNHCR, Swedish Liaison Office, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, AGEF, URA (NGO "Bridge"), National Health Institute, Psychiatric Clinic, Ministry of Internal Affairs-Department of Borders, Asylum and Migration, Ministry of Administration and Local Governance, Department for Returnees-Ministry for Community and Return, IOM, International Catholic Migration Commission.

Working in partnership

The local Red Cross organizations and the International Federation office will build on the increased level of partnerships which were developed over the last two years. These partnerships, which have an emphasis on local and non-Red Cross partners, are contributing towards achieving progress through: a) ensuring a constant exchange of information and analysis which complements the view and expertise of the Red Cross in assessing the needs and implementing programmes for the most vulnerable, b) providing funding and capacity building support to the local Red Cross organizations and thus enhancing their programme implementation ability and quality, and c) allowing for better focused planning and activity implementation through an increased level of cooperation and coordination with other actors. These partnerships have enabled increased service delivery to vulnerable communities and capacity building of staff and volunteers. The Red Cross of Kosova and the Red Cross of Kosovo and Metohija work very closely with the International Federation office in Kosovo and the Federation regional representation for Central Europe and Southern Caucasus. The ICRC also provides capacity building support in the field of information dissemination and 'tracing' including restoring family links activities. The Federation office continues to work to further strengthen partnerships, seek and coordinate support from authorities, UN and international donor agencies, diplomatic missions and non-governmental organizations for humanitarian emergency operations and capacity building initiatives undertaken by the Red Cross organizations. There will be increased participation in coordination and planning meetings with existing and new partners and stakeholders.

Contributing to longer-term impact

All the International Federation's programmes in Kosovo are aligned with and contribute to the International Federation's Global Agenda goals. Hence the Red Cross organizations, supported by the International Federation, strive to build their capacity to reduce the impact of disasters; improve the general health situation of the population; enhance peoples' ability to effectively meet their basic socio-economic needs; increase the capacity of the local Red Cross organizations to support vulnerable groups and communities to become more resilient; and build the capacity and management structure of the youth to better support vulnerable groups.

The Red Cross organizations play an important role in strengthening local communities and developing civil society. The programmes' strong focus on gender issues, including the family health education project and the social welfare programme, contributes further to this end. The support provided through the winterization project had a big impact on people's life and well-being before the harsh winter. The Red Cross have been among the few humanitarian actors providing such assistance during the winter period. However, the Red Cross organizations cannot yet cope with such evident vulnerabilities without external support such as the one from the German Red Cross.

Traditionally the Red Cross organizations have been supported multilaterally through the International Federation through a programme-based plan. The emphasis of the Red Cross continues to be on supporting the implementation of programmes through direct services. In doing so capacity building is pursued in parallel. However, in order to ensure the sustainability of its programmes, and subsequently to contribute to longer-term impact, the Red Cross needs to develop a stable financial resource base. The transformational context in which the Red Cross is operating underscores this.

Looking ahead

The Federation office will continue assessing the situation of the most vulnerable people living in Kosovo together with both Red Cross organizations and approach different stakeholders for

possible joint assistance. Also, assistance will be provided to advocate and facilitate in liaising with different stakeholders and to ensure effective working relationships and coordination with UN, authorities, ICRC and Movement partners and other stakeholders. The office in Kosovo places an emphasis on developing new partnerships and funding sources for the local Red Cross organizations. This will ensure long-term viability by advocating with the authorities as well as other donor agencies and international organizations present in Kosovo.

In the coming period the International Federation in Kosovo will put particular focus on two core areas. First the International Federation aims to assist the Red Cross organizations in improving their level and quality of services to the vulnerable population. This will be achieved through family health, family planning and reproductive health education with a special emphasis on women; awareness-raising activities on HIV with a special emphasis on youth; increased response and support to people affected by natural disasters through better trained and equipped disaster response teams; and decreased vulnerability and impact of disasters through risk reduction activities. Secondly, the Red Cross organizations will further strengthen their operational capacities. This will result in a more effective use of available financial and human resources for the greater benefit of the vulnerable population. This will be achieved through enhanced capacity and skills of management and governance structures; increased number of trained volunteers actively contributing to the work of the Red Cross through improved volunteer training and management; increased number of partnerships through enhanced transparency, a strong and positive public image and better relationship management capacity. The International Federation will closely monitor the situation on the ongoing financial recession, particularly its impact on the most vulnerable population in Kosovo.

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	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Federation Office in Kosovo: Shafiquzzaman Rabbani, Head of Office, Pristina; phone: +381 38 228187; fax: +381 38 228599; email: shafiquzzaman.rabbani@ifrc.org • In the Regional Representation for Central Europe and Southern Caucasus: Elias Ghanem, Regional Representative, Budapest, phone: + 36 1 888 4502; fax: +36 1 336 1516; email: elias.ghanem@ifrc.org • In the Europe Zone Office: Leon Prop, Deputy Head of Zone, Budapest, phone: +36 1 8884 502; fax: +361 336 1516; email: leon.prop@ifrc.org 	