

# **BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA**

## **EMERGENCY SERVICE, REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

CHF 23,268,000  
350,000 beneficiaries

**Programme No. 01.35/98**

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Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is still a country in transition. The implementation of the civil aspects of the Dayton Peace Accord is taking longer than expected, which has affected the capacity of the authorities to implement welfare structures and to adequately address the needs of the most vulnerable. It is reported that close to 20% of households have an income of under DEM 50 per month, while unemployment is estimated to be over 1 million. Of the 2.1 million Bosnians who left their homes during the conflict only 300,000 have returned since December 1995. In the past two years another 80,000 have left their homes as boundaries established under Dayton have made them minorities in the areas where they lived.

The International Federation continues to assist its beneficiaries through the seventy-nine local Red Cross branch offices in the Federation Entity and the sixty-four branch offices in Republika Srpska. The establishment of the Federation Entity Red Cross in October 1997 will further enhance the impact of the International Federation's programmes during 1998.

### ***The Operation***

In 1997 the International Federation concentrated its efforts in BiH on building non-relief operational capacity throughout the country with the Republika Srpska Red Cross and the Cantonal Red Cross bodies in the Federation Entity. This was achieved with the introduction of 143 teams of the Home Care Programme (HCP) and 29 Mobile Technical Teams (MTT) who achieved an average of 51,000 HCP visits a month and 900 monthly house repairs. Functional co-operation and diplomatic efforts have slowly reversed the Red Cross fragmentation; structural reconciliation and development at all levels of the Red Cross in BiH is essential to achieving 1998 objectives.

Repatriation has not yet presented any crisis for the Red Cross in BiH, with western governments taking a more conciliatory approach than earlier feared. Refugees outside and inside BiH will continue to receive essential Red Cross information to enable them to make well informed decisions regarding repatriation. In 1998 the Red Cross will focus on the special needs of moving populations whether within or without the national territory, in particular through the expanded use of a discretionary fund for crises in response to a variety of emergencies.

## *Objectives in 1998*

- | To maintain Home Care and MTT operations through local Red Cross structures;
- | to assist families or individuals made vulnerable by forced or voluntary internal or external movements through direct assistance and the provision of information;
- | to maintain the current Red Cross organisational structure through branch rehabilitation and financial support while initiating a self-determined and sustainable plan for long-term programme development and financial self-reliance;
- | to negotiate a clear role for the Red Cross with the government and the international community involved in the development of BiH, noting that this role should be financially sustainable by the year 2003;
- | to increase efforts for human resource development and traditional activity support, in particular youth development.

## *Plan of Action*

### **Home Care**

By the end of 1997 the Federation will have established 143 Home Care teams helping some 13,000 vulnerable elderly beneficiaries with approximately 51,000 visits per month. The main services provided include personal hygiene assistance (22%), delivery of food and shopping (18%), house cleaning and laundry (22%), wound treatment (7%), and other services (31%).

Relief supplies for the elderly will be distributed: 15,000 Elderly Aid Parcels and Hygiene Parcels to meet the needs of an estimated 200,000 beneficiaries. In order to reach this increased number it is planned to deliver the hygiene parcels via Red Cross soup kitchens.

Once again in 1998-99 winter fuel will be supplied. This will be in the form of cut timber delivered to the door sufficient to supply 6,000 beneficiaries with three cubic metres each. The secondary health aspect of the programme will be completed by the end of 1997. A reduced amount of mobility aids will continue to be supplied during 1998, and community support for the elderly will continue.

A pilot project, combining the Mobile Technical Teams and the Home Care activists, will be undertaken in selected areas.

### **Mobile Technical Teams**

The MTTs are expected to have achieved approximately 17,000 interventions by the end of 1997. Based upon the success of the MTTs the Delegation developed higher technical standards during the last quarter of 1997 with roof tiles and window glass being used instead of plastic sheeting. A regionalised close-down strategy will be completed by end of 1998.

### Population Movement Monitoring and Response

Since the beginning of 1996, population movements within and to BiH have been only a fraction of those predicted. For returnees from outside the region, reconciliation with the local population is a key area of concern. The Federation promotes reconciliation through supporting all vulnerable people in a region, whether returnees or remainees. In 1997, 20% of those assisted by MTTs were returnees.

The Federation is currently compiling a report to examine the situation of returnees and identify needs of the vulnerable. Red Cross activities will complement the basic responsibilities of the Government and UNHCR. If conditions warrant and on the basis of this report, a revised appeal will be launched in 1998.

### Public Awareness

In August, the Federation printed 125,000 copies of the revised version of the *Going Home* booklet. By the end of September 65,000 copies had been distributed to countries hosting refugees and to returnees in BiH and the organisations which are helping them. The Federation will continue to provide information and advice to returnees through 1998 and plans to create a bimonthly newsletter to assist in monitoring their experiences. Complementing the newsletter, the Federation will identify areas where radio advertising can be used to inform potential returnees of the services available both prior to and post arrival.

### Children affected by armed conflict

A Project Delegation with the Danish Red Cross in the Banja Luka and Bihac areas in 1997 provided an example of social welfare support for traumatised children through a psycho-social assistance, school feeding, hygiene assistance and reconciliation programme, involving also single mothers of the returnee and displaced population. The Federation has decided to expand this initiative to a further four regions in 1998.

### Development Programme

#### ***Capacity Building***

In order to achieve the long-term goals of financial self-reliance and sustainable programmes for the Red Cross in BiH, in 1998 Branch leadership will be trained in traditional Red Cross fund-raising and income generation activities and “start-up” funds will be provided to help them initiate a resource development programme. The Federation will provide salary and office support for these positions to ensure the transfer and continuity of skills and capacities for both Entity Headquarters. It will also expand its work on repairs to Red Cross premises in the region.

#### ***Traditional Activities***

The Federation seeks to ensure continued support for first aid, blood donor recruitment and, in particular, to reconcile ethnic groups and youth through humanitarian values programmes.

#### ***Health Programmes***

During 1997 the Red Cross in BiH was assisted with traditional health programmes: blood donor recruitment, public health education and first aid training, including first aid training and competitions for school children, all of which will be continued in 1998. The Republic of Srpska Red Cross and several Cantons in the Federation Entity have initiated public health campaigns during 1997 and the Sarajevo Canton has held two ‘Health Fairs’ providing free medical consultations and screenings for low income families and returnees. This programme will be maintained at the same level during 1998 and new initiatives explored for vulnerable groups.

### ***Youth Development***

In the second half of 1997, the International Federation initiated a Youth Development Programme in close co-operation with the successful ICRC Human Values School Programme. In 1998, this initiative will be continued by establishing formal Red Cross Youth groups at the Branch level, implementing youth service programmes and fund-raising activities, and integrating youth into the structure and activities of the Red Cross Branches.

### ***Capacity***

In 1998 the Federation begins a five-year plan to firmly place the Red Cross of BiH, or at least its two entity components, into a social network of support for the elderly, the displaced and other vulnerable groups.

### ***Co-operation***

A key activity of the International Federation in 1997 has been the promotion of a policy paper on repatriation and return, developed through a Contact Group of Red Cross National Societies in countries with large numbers of refugees from BiH. This Contact Group provides a vital source of information about potential future returns to Bosnia and Herzegovina and meetings will continue to be held in 1998.

The Federation continues to work closely and maintain excellent co-operation with ICRC.