



## ***FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE***

*12 December,  
2000*

*appeal no. 01.38/2000  
situation report no. 2  
period covered: July - October, 2000*

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*The Red Cross of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federation have encountered many challenges in the course of 2000, and have responded by adapting activities to meet the needs and the limited funding. While the planned 2001 programme will be scaled-down, there remains a need for funding this year to complete the pending activities.*

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### ***The context***

The Federation's main priority during 2000 have been to provide support to the Macedonian Red Cross (MRC) in its main programmes, as well as relief support to the remaining refugees and continued support to vulnerable social cases within the Macedonian population. The MRC Social Welfare Programme, originally established to provide assistance to Bosnian refugees, has continued. In the field of development, special attention has been given to increasing the income generation of the MRC by creating an infrastructure that can generate steady income to enable the MRC to cover its core costs. Smaller development projects will be implemented in the areas of public information, and financial reporting and control.

### ***Latest events***

The refugee situation remains constant with the predominantly Goran (Slavic speaking Muslims), Serbs and Roma refugees living in both collective accommodation and host families. Of this refugee population, 80% are Roma. 655 Macedonian citizens living or working in Kosovo have returned with assistance being provided to them by UNHCR/WFP and the Red Cross. Presently, six camps hold over 2,200 refugees with the remaining refugees and returnees being housed in host families. In July several smaller refugee collective centers were closed with the occupants (all of them being Roma) moved to a new and larger collective center on the outskirts

of Skopje in a predominantly Roma suburb. Some 1,200 refugees are housed in hastily constructed barracks operated by the Macedonian Red Cross. Local city council and mayoral elections proceeded relatively well with the opposition winning in the larger cities, but the ruling coalition taking the rural vote. The overall situation in the country remains stable despite some disturbing incidents at the Yugoslav border with Kosovo. The planning for the 2001 programme calls for substantial changes in the size of the delegation to become more of a co-ordinating and service directed office.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

### **Relief •**

During July, hygiene parcels and food items were distributed to 6,861 refugees, and 1,421 host families. The Federation supplied the hygiene parcels and baby kits, food items (consisting of rice, sugar, beans, flour and salt) for refugees have been provided by WFP, while the food items distributed to the host families were provided by Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Some 20,112 hygiene parcels were distributed to social cases, 650 baby kits to refugees and 1,758 hygiene parcels distributed to refugees and host families. June distributions to social cases were delayed because the lists of state beneficiaries that the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare provides were not submitted on time due to a reduction of approximately 30% in financial support. The Federation's Social Case Program supported some 55,000 beneficiaries, decreased from the previous 75,000.

During the month of August and September, approximately 5,600 refugees and 1,300 host families received assistance through the Macedonian Red Cross and the Federation in the form of hygiene parcels and food provided by WFP (for the refugees) and CRS (for the host families). The quantity of hygiene parcels distributed depends on the number of beneficiaries within the family. Parcels were distributed as follows:

- In Collective Centres:
  - 1 person family- 1 parcel every three months.
  - 2 to 4 person families - 1 parcel monthly.
  - 5 to 9 person families -2 parcels per month.
  - 10 and more person families- 3 parcels per month.
- Refugees in host families:
  - 1 person family- 1 parcel every three months.
  - 2 to 5 person families - 1 parcel per month.
  - 6 and up person families - 3 parcels per month.
- Host families:
  - 1 parcel monthly.

For the social cases, some 55,000 persons have been assisted during the months of August and September. The normal ration for the social cases is 1 hygiene parcel per month per family. Food items have been provided by different donors.

### **Social Welfare Programme •**

This programme continues to be a model for a low cost, high benefit programme intended to assist in meeting the needs of refugees and vulnerable social cases in Macedonia. Operated through the Macedonian Red Cross's Information Center in Skopje, it attempts to solve the day to day problems of its clients through referral, advocacy and if all this fails, through direct assistance. Each day dozens of clients arrive at the center or call needing help with documents, medical referral, special medicines, housing needs or in many other areas that the MRC aids these clients. This programme creates a climate that helps prevent many psychosomatic problems seen in refugee populations.

Additionally, this programme acts as a link with many international organizations and NGOs that use the Macedonian Red Cross as the main provider of aid to refugees and local vulnerable groups. The staff work with the MRC branches assisting them in adhering to prompt monthly reporting needs for much of the direct aid to refugees, host families and social cases in the country. Without this small but dedicated staff, the many beneficiaries in FYROM would not get the aid to which they are entitled.

### **The Red Cross of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia •**

Efforts are underway to resolve a number of internal national society organizational issues, including ensuring a sound transfer of leadership when the current secretary general retires.

### **Participating National Societies •**

#### ***American Red Cross***

September activities include:

- **Food:** The social case programme run by the American Red Cross continued to support some 78,000 people (20,000 families) with food assistance. Fifteen MRC branches distributed food aid to social cases for September as part of the American Red Cross USAID Emergency Supplemental Feeding Programme. The food team submitted a proposal for a short expansion to 34 branches of the Macedonian Red Cross for October and November food distributions since other donors are phasing out food distribution programmes. The ARC will take over the supplying of a ration to families hosting refugees in November. The programme is presently being implemented by CRS.
- **Health:** Two American Red Cross experts assessed the needs and capacity of the Macedonian Red Cross and the Institute for Blood Transfusion about donor recruitment and retention, blood collection, storage and transfusion. An assistance programme will follow pending the assessment.
- **Institutional Development:** The construction of the attic addition to the MRC headquarters is planned to start in October. This project will add to the MRC's portfolio of property that can be used for income generation. The ID process continues at a deliberate pace, with the MRC meeting regularly to assess what the MRC does now, what it should be doing and what the community thinks that MRC should be doing.

#### ***German Red Cross***

In the month of July, the social case support to some 6,500 people from Radovish, Sveti Nikole, Kumanovo, Kratovo and Kriva Palanka city continued as planned and it is expected to run until the end of the year. The soup kitchen in the Chair Red Cross branch in Skopje continued being supported by the Baden-Wutemberg Red Cross branch until September when the German Red Cross took over. For the 180 Roma refugees accommodated in the Dare Bombol collective centre near Skopje, the German Red Cross will continue with financial support until the end of the year. In Demir Kapija city where there is a mental hospital with an inadequate number of medical personnel employed, the German Red Cross is providing for 5 persons employed by the local Red Cross branch to help with the care of the patients.

In August, planning for the Macedonian Red Cross's 2,000 sq m warehousing facilities in the vicinity of Skopje was reaching its final phase, but the title to land had yet to be completed. Engineering plans and soil tests have been done in preparation for the bids. This modern styled warehouse is 25% funded by the German Red Cross with the remainder of the costs being funded by the Canadian Red Cross and Canadian government's response to the Federation's 2000 appeal.

During the month of September the German Red Cross Regional office donated humanitarian items to several institutions in the country. The humanitarian assistance consisted of clinic beds, bed tables, mattresses, medicament closets, wheelchairs, hygiene parcels, and food items. The following hospitals and medical institutions were assisted: the City Hospital in Skopje, the Cardiology and Paediatric Clinic in Skopje, the Medical Centre in the city of Kumanovo and the Specialized Institute for disabled and mentally ill people in the city of Demir Kapija.

The ongoing social case programme covering some 4,600 people around the country continues as planned. The soup kitchen programme in the Red Cross branch of Chair, in Skopje continues to provide warm meals for some 150 persons, and support to the collective centre of Dare Bombol, accommodating some 180 Roma refugees from Kosovo also continues.

#### ***Finnish Red Cross***

The Skopje office continued to support the Kosovo projects of the Finnish Red Cross, purchasing mainly medical supplies, and providing banking services during the period of July to September. In the month of July, three new

delegates arrived. In the month of August the Finnish Red Cross donated 2 containers to the Federation, and one Mercedes truck. The containers have been handed over to Macedonian Red Cross, while the truck will be used by the Federation until 15 December when it will also be handed over to the Macedonian Red Cross. During the month of September the ongoing activities of the office have continued as scheduled.

### ***Spanish Red Cross***

The project with the Lake Pretor Red Cross summer camp continued during the months of July and August. Elderly people, disabled persons and social case children used the facility in shifts of ten days. The last shift in the Pretor summer resort hosted some 120 elderly and disabled people and finished on 29 September. The phone line financially supported by the Spanish Red Cross continued providing essential information for refugees and social cases in the month of September.

### ***French Red Cross***

This delegation closed in August with one local staff remaining and working out of the Federation delegation handling Kosovo support issues. Before closing, the FRC established a special sub banking account that will fund nine projects of the Macedonian Red Cross branches in rehabilitating their offices and warehouses so they can generate income for the local branches. The Federation transferred money to the MRC for these projects as directed by the MRC counterpart. The MRC in return will submit completion reports for the French Red Cross.

### ***ICRC Tracing •***

There were 151 Red Cross messages received for distribution to civilians, 264 have been dispatched out while 49 have been returned back to sender. The reception office in Tetovo had 29 visitors and 17 phone calls, while the Skopje office received 218 visitors and 301 telephone calls during the period July-September 2000. There were 64 tracing requests received from National Societies and one received from ICRC internally.

## ***Outstanding needs***

The Federation Delegation in Macedonia has managed to carry out the planned programmes this year with carryover from last year's funding, in addition to revising budgets, modest donations from donor societies and money generated from donor governments. Funds are still needed to enable the delegation to complete all activities as planned up to the end of the year.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

The Federation and the Macedonian Red Cross are leading the way in obtaining a tax exemption for the Macedonian NGOs and humanitarian organizations from the value added tax incorporated last April in FYROM. The lack of exemption of this end-use 19% tax has affected donations of money to these organizations for use in purchasing items or services in country. The paradox is that for the MRC it is more cost effective to import than to buy locally because of the customs exemption they still enjoy. The Macedonian Red Cross and the Federation still enjoy good working relationships with all the UN agencies in Macedonia, as well as the many NGOs working within the Red Cross system. UNHCR is presently supporting three MRC-managed refugee camps.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

Head ai  
Relationship Management Department

Head ai  
Europe Department

**This and other reports on Federation operations are available on the Federation's website: <http://www.ifrc.org>**

FYR Macedonia						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.38/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED				12/14/00
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				6,324,990		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 79.0%</b>
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD FROM 1999</b>				0		
Reallocation of income from the Balkans Joint Appeal 1999				2,152,838		
Outstanding payment from ECHO				892,520		20% payment to be received after final settlement of the contract from ECHO
AMERICAN - GOVT		330,600	USD	562,020	18.05.00	PURCHASE HYGIENE PARCELS FOR REFUGEES AND HOST FAMILIES
CANADA - GOVT/RC		250,000	CAD	271,175	27.03.00	DISASTER PREPARDNESS ACTIV.
GERMAN - RC				149,000	29.06.00	SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME
NETHERLANDS - RC				25,500	26.04.00	DEL MARAT YUNOSOV
NETHERLANDS - RC				12,000	19.10.00	DAF TRUCK RUNNING COSTS
NETHERLANDS - RC				24,000	03.11.00	DAF TRUCKS RUNNING COSTS
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		690,000	SEK	129,927	22.05.00	RELIEF, DELEGATION MANAGEMENT SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME
SWEDISH - RC		2,498,655	SEK	466,499	24.01.00	DELEGATION MANAGEMENT, HYGIENE PARCELS
UNHCR		103,500	USD	177,244	07.08.00	FOOD DISTRIBUTION MONITORING
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				4,862,723	CHF	76.9%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Belgium	Delegate(s)			14,291		
Netherlands	Delegate(s)			38,111		
Netherlands	Delegate(s)			45,000		
New Zealand	Delegate(s)			15,934		
USA	Delegate(s)			18,891		
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				132,227	CHF	2.1%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SWEDISH - RC		184,791	SEK	33,632	05.10.00	32 TONS USED CLOTHES + SUPPORT COSTS
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				33,632	CHF	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						
PMK511, PMK515, PMK516.						