

## ***CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE: BUILDING CAPACITIES***

*14 December,  
2000*

*appeal no. 01.62/2000*

*situation report no. 3*

*period covered: July - September, 2000*

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*The work in the region is progressing in many areas, in particular within organisational development, youth, and disaster preparedness. There is a process under way to look at ways and modes of working to enable the Delegation to meet the many new and emerging needs in the national societies. These will necessarily build on facilitating partnerships between national societies within and outside the region as well as with local and regional competencies to be defined. The outstanding needs in support and resources for communications activities has clearly hampered progress in that area.*

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### ***The context***

The Federation's Regional Delegation in Budapest (RD) provides support to 15 national societies in central and eastern Europe. The region consists of 3 sub-regions - the Baltics, central Europe and the Balkans. Since the mid-eighties the countries in the region have been experiencing dramatic socio-economic changes. Despite positive trends in the economic developments in some countries, the unemployment rates have remained high and uncertainty about the future throughout the region has increased.

Even in the more advanced countries social benefits have been impacted. In many countries the public health situation is dramatically deteriorating. For example in Hungary, respiratory diseases such as lung cancer are expected to lower the life expectancy among the male population in the next five to ten years. The number of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases indicates victims will grow remarkably in the coming years.

During this year inflation has increased significantly and is well over 10 percent in some of the countries. The rising fuel and oil prices have a negative impact on development, and some observers are concerned that this might remarkably slow down economic progress and development.

The unstable situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continues to influence the development of the entire Balkans region. Even though refugees and displaced persons have increasingly been able to return to their homes and places of origin, tens of thousands still remain in collective centres and temporary shelters in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the F.R. of Yugoslavia, the F.Y.R. of Macedonia and in Croatia.

## ***Latest events***

The situation in Kosovo, Serbia, and the F.R. of Yugoslavia remained tense despite the results of the elections in Belgrade. One of the key questions in the future will be the status of Kosovo province. Ethnic tension has continued and the majority of the Serb population has left the province. No significant returns have been reported.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina political development remains slow even though there are some signs that the situation is moving ahead. Thousands of people are still not able to return to their homes because if their homes are not destroyed they are often occupied by refugee/displaced families from other ethnic groups.

Although the situation is very much the same in Croatia, there are some positive developments in this area. Thousands of mainly elderly displaced persons who used to live in hotels and holiday camps on the Dalmatian coast have been provided with new accommodation. The return process of the former Croatian Serb population has started as well. Mainly elderly people have returned to their home villages.

Many of the countries in the region are waiting for membership to the European Union, but during the last months the enlargement process seems to have slowed down. The existing competition among the candidate countries does not help in reaching the goal.

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

### **Regional ID/RD Programme •**

#### Strategic Planning

The ID/RD Programme continued to assist national societies with their strategic planning processes into the third quarter. By the end of September the Hungarian and Lithuanian National Societies had completed their strategic plans and accompanying action plans. As a result, four-out-of-the-seven national societies participating in the ID/RD Programme now have strategic plans and action plans. The elements of a strategic plan and action plan were presented to the Bulgarian National Society during a workshop. As a result, their existing strategic plan is being revised. A start-up meeting was held in Tallinn, which formally brings the Estonian National Society into the ID/RD Programme. The first strategic planning workshop will be held in the final quarter of this year.

Although the Polish National Society is included in the ID/RD Programme, their participation has ground to a halt because of governance problems which should be resolved in the last quarter. The Head of Regional Delegation and a representative of the ID/RD Programme met with the vice president of the Polish National Society during this quarter to get an update of that National Society's situation. It was agreed that the Delegation will provide support to the national society in reviewing its financial management system and to set up a volunteer management system. Further requests for support are expected once governance needs have been prioritised.

#### Developing Partnerships

Two pilot efforts have been initiated this quarter in Hungary. After an evaluation, they will be adapted and replicated in other countries of the region. The first pilot is a partnership with the International Management Centre, a Budapest-based, accredited business school. Twenty-four members of the Hungarian National Society (management, staff; headquarters and branch levels) will participate in a two-year course in change management. The course was designed by the ID/RD Programme and IMC to ensure that participants use their

new skills and information to strengthen their departments or branches. The first three-day course was held in September. The Yugoslav Red cross has initiated discussions with a University in Belgrade to adapt the course curriculum to the needs of the national society.

The second pilot effort is a participatory rapid appraisal (PRA) training of trainers project. The pilot was initiated this quarter in Nograd, the poorest district in Hungary. The objectives of the pilot are:

- to establish a multidisciplinary team that will work with the Nograd Red Cross to carry out needs assessments on a regular basis (members of the team are drawn from local government agencies, non governmental organizations (NGOs), the Red Cross Branch; and beneficiaries);
  - to provide government and NGO professionals with tools and techniques they will be able to use in their day-to-day work;
  - to empower beneficiaries;
  - to create a PRA manual;
  - to design and implement projects with the beneficiaries;
  - to write the results up in a report and make it available to the Hungarian government, NGOs, and the media.
- Partnership teams have been established and are functioning in Nograd. Steps have also been taken to replicate the pilot in a second impoverished county in Hungary. The pilot will be expanded to at least one other county in Hungary during the next quarter, and will be initiated in Albania.

In addition, two external consultants have been identified to facilitate three regional workshops: volunteer management, the project cycle, and fund-raising in the third quarter. The fund-raising workshop will be held in co-operation with the Federation's Knowledge Sharing Division. The project cycle workshop will be one of a series of seven to be run until the end of 2001.

#### *Bridging the Gap Between National Societies and the Vulnerable*

The above pilot effort serves to connect or reconnect the local Red Cross with vulnerable groups in their communities. To facilitate this process the first draft of a PRA training of trainers manual was written in English during this quarter by the ID/RD Programme and translated into Hungarian, as well as Hungarian Braille for blind workshop participants. The manual will be revised after each PRA workshop, including the addition of new materials (photos, graphics, etc.) produced by workshop participants.

In addition, the ID/RD programme assistant, together with the Hungarian Red Cross, is undertaking a brief study on the following two issues: what is meant by "vulnerability" and how is the term used by Regional Delegation staff, as well as the national society and what are the implications for the ID/RD Programme; and who are the socially excluded groups in Hungary, what governmental and NGO programmes exist to assist them, what is the Red Cross doing to assist them, and what should the Red Cross be doing?

#### *Sustainability of the Third Sector in Central and Eastern Europe*

The ID/RD department participated in a Civil Society conference organized by the Civil Society Development Foundation of Hungary. The conference brought together NGOs from throughout Central Europe and the former Soviet Union. The conference examined the legal environment in this part of the world for fund-raising, as well as the functioning of Civil Society organizations. The conference also addressed issues regarding integrated funding, sustainability, and the evaluation of programs, and provided the opportunity to identify some potential new resource persons for the ID/RD programme.

#### *The Federation's Change Process*

An ID/RD programme manager travelled to Bangkok during this quarter to participate in a change management pilot project meeting of the Regional Delegation/Bangkok. The purpose of the participation was to explain how the ID/RD Programme functions in Budapest, its relationship to the Regional Delegation/Budapest's pilot project, and to see how the two regional delegations can cooperate in the near future. The ID/RD representative met with the ID delegate in Bangkok and together they agreed on a framework for co-operation.

### **Promoting Humanitarian Values and Principles (PHVP) •**

The Regional Delegation's information department has continued to work on the PHVP programme, and as in other "core areas" has continued to provide the delegation and other programmes with information related services.

#### Media contacts

The World Disasters Report (WDR) was launched in the beginning of July in Budapest, Hungary in a press conference organized jointly with Hungarian Red Cross. More than 20 Hungarian journalists attended, and the coverage in national level TV stations, radio and newspapers was good. Other WDR related press conferences were organized in Slovakia and Lithuania by the National Societies.

A communication seminar for Estonian journalists was organised in Tallinn in August jointly with the ICRC Budapest delegation and with 20 journalists attended. The first aim of the seminar was to introduce the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the national society to the journalists. The second goal was to give the journalists an overview about "the humanitarian world" in general, and included a session about the changes in the media as well.

#### Publications

The regional information magazine the Bridge was published with the cover story related to the emblem issue. The information department contributed to the production of an ICRC dissemination ring folder. This material will be tested and evaluated in a regional dissemination and information workshop which will be organized in Budapest in October by the ICRC. The Federation's information department will be participating in the workshop.

#### Computer support

The information department has become the main computer support provider in the office. With new staff members and with the refurbishment of the office building the information officer has spent more than 25 percent of his time on programme installation and problem solving.

#### External meetings

The information delegate represented the Federation and ran a half day session in the International Humanitarian Seminar in Warsaw in July. The presentation aimed at explaining the role of the Federation, but also provoked some discussion about humanitarian challenges. The case study, presented by the Federation's delegate, generated a long and lively discussion. This "Warsaw Summer School" is a traditional IHL workshop, which is attended each year by some 30 young IHL lawyers and law students from all over the world.

In September the information delegate participated in the European Public Support Group meeting in Copenhagen. The meeting dealt with branding and image.

#### Appeal and PHVP the Programme

The information department has produced a new programme format for next year covering the core area Promoting Humanitarian Values and Principles. All development related communication activities will be included in the development programme. The PHVP is only part of the communication activities which will be conducted by the information department.

#### Needs for the Future

The regional information programme has been severely under funded during the year, resulting in several activities planned for this year being put on hold. Training for national society communicators and external marketing as well as journalist seminars have suffered because of the poor funding situation.

### **Disaster Preparedness and Response •**

#### Country Visits

- **Lithuania:** In June a DP seminar was organised by the Health Emergency Situations Centre and Lithuanian Red Cross. The seminar was primarily an information seminar with the objective to inform each other about DP within the respective organisations. Questions discussed during the meeting were: the legal base for DP, co-operation between the Government and NGOs, training and education, organisation of joint rescue teams, psychological questions related to disasters, and evaluation. It was agreed that close co-operation between the Government and the NGOs will be established. On the NGO side the Red Cross will be the main actor. If possible a special working group will be established for future work. The Red Cross will follow the issue up and if necessary call a meeting again in September.
- **Bosnia-Herzegovina:** The regional DP delegate visited BiH in August. Discussions were held regarding the Stability Pact Operational Team (SPOT) visit to BiH and possible influx of refugees from Montenegro to BiH. The following questions were discussed during the visit: the general approach to DP from the Federation point of view, which is capacity building of the national society (and/or ERCs, in the case of BiH) enabling the national society to respond efficiently in times of emergencies. This includes:
  - clarification of the Red Cross role within a national DP plan;
  - establishment of Government-Red Cross relations in DP;
  - VCA on a regular basis;
  - knowledge sharing and expertise in all fields related to DP;
  - steps towards the reduction of potential vulnerability (public education and community based disaster response);
  - recruitment of volunteers;
  - resource mobilisation and efficient use of the existing resources; improvement of information and communications systems;
  - proper disaster management skills in place;
  - regional and international relations and cooperation.
- **Bulgaria.** In September the regional DP delegate visited Bulgaria for discussions regarding the SPOT visit to Bulgaria in October. The Bulgaria Red Cross (BRC) DP structure and activities involve training of volunteers as part of DP and training of trainers. The need for standardisation of DP material (Sphere material) as well as problems related to the recruitment of volunteers was discussed thoroughly. The issue of psychological debriefings related to disasters and emergency situations was brought up and could become an asset in the development of this very important field within DP. The Government will establish a state agency for management of crises situations.
- **Croatia:** Discussions regarding the SPOT visit to Croatia in October and the Repatriation Programme for Refugees from FRY to Croatia were held.

### Stability Pact

In the immediate aftermath of the cessation of the hostilities in Kosovo, the international community and the countries of the South Eastern Europe region committed themselves to make a determined effort to create conditions for peace, stability and prosperity in South Eastern Europe.

In March 2000 the Stability Pact started an activity called the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) to offer a framework for regional co-operation by pulling together ongoing activities and identifying unmet needs which lend themselves to regional co-operation either in training or response. As a first operational step DPPI has appointed an 'Operational Team' to assess needs and capacities. This assessment will in particular analyse natural risks, country by country review existing national disaster preparedness plans, catalogue ongoing emergency response projects, and make recommendation based on the findings for areas where regional co-operation can make an immediate positive impact and for long-term strategic planning.

The Federation's Regional Delegation in Budapest is a member of the Operational Team together with UNDP, NATO, the US and Italy. UNDP is team-leader. Other countries within the Stability Pact can join the Operational Team if they wish. The team will visit the countries in the Balkans region i.e. Albania, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia and Romania as well as Turkey, Greece and Hungary during Spring 2001.

It is important to remember that the Stability Pact DPPI is aiming at the respective governments and not at the Red Cross societies specifically. Having said this it is also important to remember that the Red Cross societies will be invited to take part in the process and that this will form very good bases for Red Cross DP planning as part of the overall national DP plans. I will also assist in formulating a coherent DP strategy for the region

In order to prepare the team visits early 2001 the Operational Team will make two 'test-visits' late October this year to Croatia and Bulgaria.

### **Health and Care in the Community •**

With the deteriorating health situation in the region, a regional health delegate is still very much sought to support the national societies in their activities addressing the respective needs. A consultant has been contracted by the Regional Delegation to assess and report on the HIV/AIDS situation in the region. Preliminary results already indicate that HIV/AIDS is a much bigger problem in the Central and Eastern European countries than statistics suggest.

### **Regional Youth Development Programme •**

#### Achievement of objectives

- At the beginning of July the Regional Youth Delegate was invited to facilitate and participate at a Think Tank called "S2010 and youth", organized by the Secretariat's Youth Unit. 15 Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth volunteers and staff (BiH Youth Development Delegate also) from all around the world gathered, with the aim to come up with concrete proposals concerning involvement of Red Cross and Red Crescent youth in awareness and implementation of Strategy 2010.
- In early July a new assistant to the regional youth development program was selected.
- The Advanced Training Course and Workshop (ATC&W) was organized in Hungary from August 10-19 with the participation of RC youth participants and the International Trainers Team (ITT - advisory and support team of the RYDP; the team comprises of Red Cross Youth volunteers and staff with different backgrounds and from different levels in national societies).
- The ATC&W aimed at providing further training - much of that represented testing of new concepts, methodologies and approaches - to participants and later in the workshop phase utilizing their newly gained knowledge and skills as well as experience from their respective national societies. In the training phase, the participants learned about strategic planning, the capacity building framework, the project planning cycle, logical frameworks, different assessment tools (SWOT, CAPI, ZOOP, and problem trees) and their use in planning and evaluation processes. In addition, there were two whole day training sessions about preparedness and response, and about the activities of the regional logistics centre. Fundamental principles, IHL, conflict situations and ICRC field activities were covered by the co-operation delegate, legal advisor and the ICRC's dissemination delegate. These sessions were aimed at providing necessary background information for S2010 awareness activities to be conducted by the ITT in the following year. The workshop was aimed at the designing and preparation of children projects, a program handbook (compiling activities already ongoing in the region), a Regional Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment Programme and respective manual (based on the Federation one), capacity building and monitoring tools for national societies as well as Youth sections. All the planned goals of both training and workshops were successfully achieved, however further work has to be done in order to finalize the "products". As a result, the following new tools were prepared: revised CAPI Youth I Questionnaire, CAPI Youth II questionnaire and methodology in two versions for structured and unstructured Red Cross Youth sections, and the long expected Youth Policy and Strategy compliance and monitoring tool.
- Designing and preparation (done by the RYDP team) of a new Web site of the RYDP began in early September. The new concept of the site should allow regular updates and make it even more useful. The aim is to provide youth sections with constant access to relevant information and methodology thus support self-development processes newly emerging in the region.

*New Developments*

- Based on the results of the ECC meeting in Geneva, and the technical and organizational challenges of the ECM, the RYDP has provided support the Hungarian Red Cross Youth, both in preparation and implementation phases of the activity. The increased involvement of the ITT can be expected.
- Following several months of funding shortages the programme received further contributions from the British Red Cross, and the total year 2000 budget is now covered. This provides the opportunity to begin developing several new initiatives.
- Preparation of a new long term programme focusing on local vulnerability and capacity assessment in the framework of Red Cross Youth sections has begun.
- As a result of active communication and cooperation with the Youth Development Program in BiH, the RYDP is becoming more actively involved in BiH - especially in the fields of training and capacity building. At the same time the other side RYDP and ITT are provided with an opportunity to participate to and learn from other processes run in BiH.
- A preparatory workshop for the Regional Red Cross Youth Conference will need to be organized.

**Regional Logistic Centre (RLC)**

Relief goods and other items including transportation were procured by the RLC during the third quarter of the year. Most of the activities have related to the disaster preparedness and relief operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Albania.

Items provided for the Yugoslav Red Cross included food items, disaster preparedness material, vehicles and various office equipment. Due to the sanctions and other reasons, all the activities related to the Yugoslav operation have taken a lot of time and manpower.

In August the Albanian Red Cross received new uniforms and first aid kits as a part of the national society's disaster preparedness programme.

A regional vehicle warehouse, which was set up close to Budapest, has been actively used to store incoming and outgoing vehicles. This is a service available for both the Federation delegations and PNS working in the region. New vehicles and spare parts for the delegations and PNSs have been handled as well.

***Outstanding needs***

The programme for the promotion of humanitarian values and principles still needs donor support in order to achieve its potential in contributing as important and integral components of the development activities promoted and supported by the Delegation.

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

The Delegation has continued to represent the Federation at the Stability Pact Regional meetings and in Brussels. The DP delegate has become a key coordinator for the activities. A dialogue with UNDP's sub regional office in Bratislava is continuing. Special focus is on modes of co-operation in issues and activities relating to minorities, in particular the Roma population in the region. The World Disasters Report received positive coverage in the Hungarian media (all TV channels, main newspapers and news agencies). The organisational development programme in Hungary has been received well in the local-level media in the regions where the piloting has started.

***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

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

Central and Eastern Europe						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.62/2000		PLEDGES RECEIVED				12/15/00
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>3,864,000</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 85.6%</b>
Balance carried forward from 1999				<b>1,092,154</b>		
Reallocation of Income				(56,257)		
Regional Logistics Centre recharges				(245,836)		
FEDERATION BUDGET				262,555	01.01.00	
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		22,222	USD	39,366	18.09.00	POPULATION MOVEMENTS LITHUANIA
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		22,222	USD	39,366	18.09.00	POPULATION MOVEMENTS ESTONIA
AMERICAN - RC		30,000	USD	53,205	25.10.00	PNS COORDINATOR
BRITISH - GOVT				340,000	19.01.00	DFID 1.3.2
BRITISH - GOVT				368,000	19.01.00	DFID 1.3.1
BRITISH - RC		42,000	GBP	107,940	15.06.00	REG. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
BRITISH - RC				160,000	14.08.00	INCL. SALARY REG. YOUTH DELEGATE
BRITISH - RC		23,000	GBP	59,190	01.12.00	HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES & VALUES
DENMARK - RC				105,600	11.05.00	REG. HEALTH CARE IN COMMUNITY
DENMARK - RC		500,000	DKK	105,600	11.05.00	REG. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROG.
DENMARK - RC				211,200	11.05.00	F/ REGI. INSTITU. AND RES. DEV. PROG.
DENMARK - RC		45,500	DKK	9,277	05.12.00	PNS COORDINATION PILOT PROG.
FINNISH - RC		33,637	EUR	52,894	29.05.00	INFORMATION PROGRAMME
NORWAY - RC		80,000	NOK	15,838	16.12.99	BALTICS IFRC REG DEL RIGA
SWEDISH - RC		1,200,000	SEK	225,960	22.05.00	LATVIA/LITHUANIA /ESTONIA DEV./ID
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				2,946,052	CHF	76.2%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Finland	Delegate(s)			170,347		
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			60,123		
Germany	Delegate(s)			39,918		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			57,469		
Norway	Delegate(s)			32,500		
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				360,357	CHF	9.3%
<b>ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA - RC		3,006	AUD	3,149	02.03.00	ROMANIA
BRITISH - RC		28,164	USD	47,555	04.09.00	AUTOMATED FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF BULGARIAN RC
BRITISH - RC				401,264	17.11.00	REPATRIATION, REINTEGRATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME
IRISH - RC		4,501	IEP	8,982	13.06.00	ROMANIA
SWEDISH - RC		93,500	SEK	17,017	25.08.00	1 TRUCKLOAD OF USED CLOTHES
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				477,967	CHF	
<b>THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:</b>						
210450,P66160,P66900, P66902, P66903, P66906, P66908, P66909,PEE001,PEE504,PLV001,PLT001, PLT504, PRO001, P75000, P75500, P66160.						