

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ALBANIA

14 November, 2001

Appeal No. 01.53/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 4,316,101

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January - 30 September 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 83.3%

Related Appeals: N/A

Outstanding needs: CHF 721,482

Update: The Federation’s Delegation in Albania is providing support to the Albania Red Cross (ARC) in meeting the objectives outlined in the 2001 appeal. There is no plan at this stage to revise the activities or other aspects of the appeal.

Operational Developments

The situation in the country remains difficult in spite of the political stability of the past two years. This year’s census indicates a population of 3.1 million people, the GDP per capita is \$1,094 and 16.8% of the population is living below the poverty level. During 1999, approximately 17% of the families in the country received assistance from the government’s social protection program. The health infrastructure continues to suffer chronic problems, with pensioners being among the hardest hit.

Two major developments during this period had implications on the humanitarian situation: national elections in Albania; and ongoing instability in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM). The elections in Albania were held in relative calm and stability. The situation in FYRoM has had more of an impact, but well within the capacity of the Albanian Red Cross to manage. Approximately 1,000 people sought Red Cross assistance in Albania and were all assisted by Red Cross branches within the DP strategies and plans.

Disaster Preparedness (DP)

Objective 1 To define the national disaster preparedness plan of the Albanian Red Cross and the roles of various Red Cross structures to implement the plan.

Due to the situation in the region (FYRoM), the national society updated its emergency contingency plan for any influx of refugees. This plan was prepared in co-operation with the Federation delegation in the country and other PNSs. For these reasons, the drafting of the National Society DP plan was postponed towards the end of the year. Two staff and governance meetings have been held to discuss the revised policy of the national society for disaster situations. A draft was worked out and is to be submitted for approval to the General Council meeting due at the end of September 2001.

Objective 2 To increase the logistic and relief capacities at the central and local level to meet the relief and shelter needs of 8,000 beneficiaries in accordance with international standards.

Despite great efforts to initiate the construction of the central warehouse of the national society, the necessary construction permits have not yet been received. Further delays were caused by the general elections of June 2001. All other measures to initiate works have been taken. As a consequence of this delay, the operating timeframe was extended. Donors were informed of the extension of the project.

Another regional warehouse was to be constructed in Korca with German Red Cross support, but the project was reviewed in August 2001. Additional work on this project still needs to be completed and will be formalized through a co-operation agreement. Two other regional warehouses (Fier, Shkodra) are regularly maintained. Available stock for 8,000 beneficiaries has been stored. From this stock distributions were undertaken to 450 people who fled the hostilities in FYRoM. The communication system has been regularly maintained, and so far no problems have been observed. Five local volunteers meetings were held at the branch level, in Tirana, Kukes, Lusnje, Shkoder and Korca.

Objective 3 To increase public awareness of disaster preparedness activities.

The posters and leaflets printed during December 2000 have been delivered to the local branches, then distributed to schools and to the areas identified as likely to be affected by earthquakes. Simulation exercises on basic first aid were organised together with first aid volunteers. A more integrated approach is to be developed incorporating First Aid and health activities in disaster simulation.

Objective 4 To meet some of the long-term needs of disaster-affected groups, including social, psychological and health needs through increasing disaster response capacities.

Responding to the situation in FYRoM, the national society changed its training plan. Priority was given to meeting the needs of the affected people from disaster situations and to be prepared to cope with an eventual influx of refugees from FYRoM. All Red Cross local branches bordering FYRoM were contacted, together with others branches concerned/involved in refugee settlement. Plans and activities to be implemented in such situation were discussed and analysed. Local branches have demonstrated their capacities to respond to the needs by effectively assisting refugees. Basic food items, blankets, mattresses and hygiene kits were distributed from the disaster emergency stock to 450 people by twelve Red Cross local branches, (Tirana, Peshkopi, Bulqize, Korce, Elbasan, Kukes, and Durres, among others). An agreement with UNHCR in Tirana was signed to provide support to these people until the end of the year. According to this agreement, the Albanian Red Cross will carry out the distribution of the relief items and the UNHCR will cover all costs related to this operation. During the same period, an emergency contingency plan was drafted to better respond to any additional influx of refugees from FYRoM.

Humanitarian Values

Objective 1 To determine the level of knowledge about the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Albania.

An image survey was conducted during the April-July period by the ARC, with the support of the American Red Cross. The survey has been completed and will be published shortly.

Objective 2 To promote IHL, the fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the Movement.

During the period January-June 2001, activities focused on increasing the level of public awareness on the ARC and on the Movement in general, and on the promotion of humanitarian values. Ten local committees were provided with audiovisual equipment.

Objective 3 Dissemination.

Fifty per cent of the local committees were in position to record and disseminate their activities to assist vulnerable people. Regular monitoring visits at the local branches were organised to provide a better orientation to local committees on information and communication issues. Many activities were organised for the promotion of World Red Cross Day on 8 May. Dissemination material such as posters, banderoles and other visual materials were prepared for this event. Regarding the impact of the Humanitarian Values program and as a result of its promotion, it was noted that more professional information is available and better communication with the public was developed. Local branches have increased their level of awareness and improved the quality of information about the Red Cross and International Humanitarian Law. Activities are better planned and effectively achieved. All of this has resulted in improving the image of the ARC.

Health and Care

Objective 1 To assess the public knowledge and needs related to reproductive health and infectious diseases.

Information was collected from the Ministry of Health as well as from various health authorities and structures in the country. Based on this information, a questionnaire was prepared and distributed to 12 districts to evaluate the population's knowledge regarding reproductive health and infectious diseases. The districts selected were: Kukes, Puke, Has, Gjirokaster, Tepelene, Permet, Peqin, Gramsh, Librazhd, Mat, Bulqize and Shkoder. Following that, a working team was set up to organize interviews and surveys in those districts. The information received was studied, analyzed by the working teams, and formulated in conclusions. On the basis of this intensive work the national society is able to identify and define the needs and the vulnerable groups to be approached.

Objective 2 To increase the level of public knowledge about the risks and prevention of reproductive and infectious diseases.

To implement this objective, the following three projects were developed: reproductive health education; personal hygiene; environmental hygiene.

- reproductive health involves 18 local Red Cross branches. Training for branches health co-ordinators was conducted at the headquarters level, and additional sessions for volunteers (14) were organised in districts. In total 230 volunteers were trained. The project has involved 60 communities. Teaching material (New parents book), educational leaflet (health leaflet related to infant care) and posters (3,000) were prepared and distributed to provide volunteers and beneficiaries adequate health information and guidance.
- personal hygiene: 18 Red Cross local branches were selected. 15 training sessions were organized at the local level. The project focused on conveying health information to the lower classes of the elementary schools. Meetings with beneficiaries were held at 40 schools, mainly in villages, and 15,000 children were beneficiaries of the project. This involved the participation of 320 volunteers. Some 5,000 posters, 10,000 leaflets, and 2,800 hygiene kits were prepared and distributed.
- Environmental hygiene: 14 Red Cross local branches participated in this project. with the involvement of 220 volunteers. 25,000 leaflets, 3,000 posters and 20 big streamers were distributed. A TV spot was prepared, and broadcast on national and local TV stations. Red Cross local branches worked in close collaboration with the local authorities and other NGOs operating locally.

Objective 3 To promote non-remunerated blood donation.

To reach this objective, a public awareness campaign has been planned and implemented, involving 10 Red Cross local branches, with 120 volunteers. Some 3,000 posters and 10000 leaflets were distributed. Meetings for raising public awareness were organised as well as special events such as blood days. Effective co-operation was established with the National Blood Center. In order to identify ways on how to improve its future strategy towards non-remunerated blood donation, the Ministry of Health organised a workshop with the participation of

WHO, the National Blood Donation Center, the Federation, and the Albanian Red Cross. The very sensitive issue of non-remunerated blood donation was discussed at length. The following recommendations were adopted:

- to review and improve the present law (favoring paid blood donations).
- to set up a body with participants from different NGOs interested in this issue, in order to promote non-remunerated blood donation, with the aim that in the very near future non-remunerated blood donations will be the primary mode of blood collection.

This workshop has in some ways exceeded the initial objective set by the National Society (design of a questionnaire to assess public attitudes regarding blood donations). The number of volunteers has been increased by 15%. The number of blood days and blood donors for this reporting period is equal to that of the entire year 2000.

Objective 4 To ensure a well-defined role for the Albanian Red Cross in meeting the health needs of the population in disaster situations.

The ARC General Council discussed the policies of the national society in its meeting of April 2001. It was decided to review some policies in the course of the current year. The health policy is scheduled to be reviewed in December 2001. A new draft will be prepared and submitted for approval. The role of health in the disaster preparedness and disaster response policies was better defined and a draft policy outlining this new approach was submitted to the General Council meeting (end of September 2001). In this draft, the role of the health program will focused on raising public awareness and providing information for well-defined vulnerable groups.

First Aid (FA)

Objective 1 To raise public awareness of the National Society's first aid program through the media and other channels, and to provide first aid services to the public.

During this reporting period some public information campaigns have been organised in 12 Red Cross local branches for first aid activities. The production of a first aid spot for TV broadcasting is in process. Red Cross local branches are preparing to open first aid courses for the public. FA volunteers under the supervision of FA instructors are organising demonstrations of skills and providing leaflets to participants in public squares, schools, and recreation areas. Little progress has been made on the setting up of nationwide training for newly-licensed drivers. The national society has defined the training programme for newly licensed drivers.

Objective 2 To identify at-risk groups throughout Albania and to provide appropriate information and FA to these groups.

A workshop was held in April to identify at-risk people, with the participation of 25 FA trainers from the Red Cross local branches. A representative from the Ministry of Health attended this workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to elaborate a questionnaire to be used for collection of data about at-risk people nationwide. This questionnaire was distributed to the Red Cross local branches to be filled in. A working group will work on the collected data by the end of September, and the final conclusions will form the basis of recommendations for the training and information to be offered to those identified at-risk people.

Objective 3 To increase the number of trained FA instructors and volunteers throughout Albania.

During this reporting period 20 new FA instructors have been trained, and a refresher course provided to 25 FA instructors. So far, for 25 Red Cross local branches, 200 new volunteers have been trained, and by the end of the year the figure will be 360. Discussions are ongoing and the development of an FA component in specific programmes (such as the water rescue service) is to be developed.

Objective 4 To insure that FA training courses in Albania comply with internationally-recognized standards.

In July, three regional FA competitions were organized with the participation of local Red Cross. From these competitions six of the best FA teams of the Red Cross local branches were selected and will participate to the FA national competition in September. Due to events in FYRoM, the FA European competition was not held.

Social Welfare

Objective 1 To make regular vulnerability assessments of at-risk population in Albania.

Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) activities were delayed, but three training sessions are planned by the end of June 2002. These sessions are planned for a large group of national society staff (volunteers, secretaries from the main local Red Cross local, headquarters, and co-ordinators). Technical support will be provided by the Budapest Regional Delegation.

Objective 2 To prioritise the identified needs of the vulnerable.

A large working group consisting of representatives from Red Cross staff and government has been working with lonely elderly people in Albania. 15 Red Cross local branches were involved in this work as well. A needs assessment was conducted and the information provided will be used for developing the project "Help lonely elderly people.". This project is due to start early October, and 1,500 beneficiaries are expected to benefit from the programmes in 15 branches. In cooperation with a Spanish Red Cross delegation in Albania, a survey on the children at risk is on going and will be completed in 36 districts of the country. By the end of September the final conclusions of this assessment will be ready, and will be used for developing a specific project for children next year.

Objective 3 To design and implement effective projects for those clearly-identified groups.

During the reporting period the following projects were implemented:

- soup kitchen project: free lunch are distributed 5 times a week to 450 beneficiaries in 8 Red Cross local branches.
- dressmaking courses and psychological counseling project in 7 local branches reaching a total of 270 beneficiaries.
- work is ongoing for the Blind and Deaf and Mute Institutes in Tirana in cooperation with the Spanish Red Cross delegation in Tirana. There are in total 128 beneficiaries in those institutions.
- children at risk project (implemented to two Red Cross local branches). The total number of beneficiaries: 140. To those children additional class lessons are offered to integrate them little by little into society.
- during the summer camps were organised for more than 450 orphans from the community.

Institutional and Resource Development

Objective 1 To strengthen the role of the governance in the development of the Albanian Red Cross.

Draft Policies for fund-raising, staff, development, volunteer management, finance, first aid, disaster response, and mine awareness were prepared, to be submitted at the General Assembly in October. The process was facilitated by the Development Department and a Canadian Red Cross Consultant. The ongoing process of change in the ARC has also involved review of the legal documents. A commission is currently developing the draft of the new Regulations that will be approved by the General Council at the end of the year.

Objective 2 To design a more effective ARC structure and expand its training capacities.

During this period, two meetings of the General Council took place in Tirana. Among other activities, two training sessions were held with the members of General Council, the first one in March, regarding

parliamentary rules during the government meetings, and the second in June, regarding the policy designing process in the Albanian Red Cross.

Program design and implementation

Objective To evaluate the resources at the central and local level to more effectively design, implement and evaluate programs and projects, and to increase skills of staff and volunteers in designing, implementing and evaluating programs and projects.

Twelve training sessions were provided on Project Cycle Management (PCB), organized both at headquarters and branch level, with a total of 84 people receiving PCB training. Additional training is planned in all branches. 26 branches out of 36 in total have now submitted projects, using the PCB methodology. 14 branches have used the log-frame approach (LA- Project Planning Matrix), and other branches are currently reworking their documents applying this methodology.

Youth development

Objective 1 To design a system for recruitment, retention and motivation of volunteers.

Regarding volunteer management, an ARC volunteer policy has been drafted. Its process was monitored through the establishment of a sub-commission which focused on the definition of volunteers, ARC rights and responsibilities towards volunteers, and volunteer rights and responsibilities toward the ARC. The document was presented at the General Assembly in October 2001.

Objective 2 To initiate volunteer management training at local branches.

During the reporting period, the volunteer network was strengthened, volunteering promoted, and the capacities of ARC related to volunteer management were reinforced.

Objective 3 & 4 Preparation of reference material for volunteers and training of youth volunteers.

These two objectives remain to be implemented.

Objective 5 To increase the number of youth that are involved in ARC activities.

Regarding activities with youth volunteers to promote ARC principles and philosophy, from February to May the National Competition of Drawing project "Children and Red Cross," was implemented. This was implemented in 30 districts with the participation of children aged from 8-14 years old. ARC youth volunteers organized discussions with children in schools about Red Cross Principles and activities, and feedback was then received from children in the form of drawings. Local exhibitions were opened in 30 districts, a selection of the best drawings was made and was used for the opening of the National Exhibition "Children and the Red Cross," on World Red Cross Day, 8 May. In total, 1,810 children from 120 schools and social institutions in 30 districts were involved in this competition, with 3,100 drawings.

Regional Co-operation

Objective During the reporting period, the objective has been to ensure that links between the regional technical delegates and the Albanian Red Cross technical staff at all levels are enhanced. This has been achieved through visits from delegates to Albania and through the deliberate placing of more Albanian Red Cross staff than initially envisaged on workshops or other visits to Budapest, especially since the completion of the restructuring with new people in some key positions. E-mail has been provided to additional staff at lower levels in the organisation, in order to smooth this transition whereby Albanian Red Cross staff receive support from the Federation by having direct access to the regional delegation (or the Secretariat).

Coordination and Management

Objective 1 To maintain the momentum in the ID/RD programmes within the Albanian Red Cross.

The momentum has indeed been maintained in the ID/RD activities of the ARC. The Federation has provided support chiefly through the provision of a short-term organisational development delegate at the beginning of the year, and a short-term mission from the same Canadian Red Cross delegate in the summer. Discussions are ongoing between ARC and Canadian Red Cross regarding a long-term placement of this delegate. The Federation will be involved in this collaboration through the Regional Delegation and knowledge-sharing division. The Country Delegation has been supporting the Secretary General and governing board in carrying out a restructuring exercise which included all positions at the headquarters. The ARC leadership, supported by the country delegation in close co-operation with the regional delegation, is planning to unveil the process through the 12 major branches during the fall of this year and in 2002.

The regional delegation links have been strengthened by more regular visits and closer collaboration directly from the Albanian Red Cross to Budapest related to phasing out of the country delegation, and moving to a more long-term capacity-building approach supported by the Regional Delegation. As part of implementing the Albanian Red Cross strategy, all current and planned activities are being reviewed by a development commission. The delegation did make reductions as planned, and all major assets were allocated during the initial quarter of 2001. This process went smoothly in a phased and controlled manner, currently one Federation delegate and one Albanian staff member are left at the delegation. The delegation will be closed by the end of November this year.

Objective 2 To improve coordination and compliance of PNS programmes with the Albanian Red Cross strategy working in Albania and provide administrative support to them.

The compatibility of PNS activities is definitely improved when compared to previous reporting periods and thus this objective is considered as met. Closer and increased collaboration was reflected and measured through mutual direct input into programme design.

Outstanding needs

The planned activities for the year in terms of the country delegation are on target. The expected shift of support from a country delegation to a focal point placed elsewhere in the region, planned to take place in September, has been postponed to December/January due to the situation in the Southern Balkans. There are no outstanding needs for the moment for the country delegation apart from those parts of the uncovered appeal budgets for the ARC.

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Albania						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.53/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			09.11.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				4'316'101		TOTAL COVERAGE 83.3%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				1'632'875		
CASH CARRIED FORWARD FROM OTHER PROJECTS				1'405'410		
CANADIAN - RC		3'226	CAD	3'527	30.03.2001	DELEGATION & RELIEF
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		105'013	EUR	160'155	17.05.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
SWEDISH - RC		600'000	SEK	101'100	30.03.01	HEALTH PROGRAMME, ID/RD PROGRAMME
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'200'000	SEK	196'440	07.06.01	HEALTH & CARE, ID/RD, COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3'499'507	CHF	81.1%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Canada	Delegate(s)			9'363		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			30'883		
Great Britain	Delegate(s)			54'866		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				95'112	CHF	2.2%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SPANISH - RC/ECHO		300'000	EUR		09.02.01	ALBANIA RC, INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN AT RISK, BILATERAL
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						
PAL001, PAL 002, PAL005, PAL006, PAL007, PAL008, PAL010, PAL015, PAL 020, PAL110, PAL160, PAL 505, PA						