

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 جمعيات الصليب الأحمر والقمر الأحمر

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO/ KOSOVO (SPECIAL FOCUS ON KOSOVO)

11 November 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

For more information: <http://www.ifrc.org>

In Brief

Appeal No: 01.74/2004 ([click here for appeal](#))

Programme Update no. 4: Special focus on Kosovo covering new winterisation programme

Period covered: July to October 2004 inclusive

([click here for overall appeal total & contributions details](#))

Summary

This programme update no.4 for appeal 01.74/2004 - special focus on Kosovo - includes an announcement of activities to support vulnerable elderly people in Kosovo over winter. These activities will be linked to the 2005 appeal once it is launched but because of the urgency of the situation will activities will begin now. This report also gives a summary of developments in Kosovo since the last programme update [<please click here for last update>](#)

The Federation Office in Kosovo supports the two Red Cross organizations in Kosovo, the Red Cross of Kosova (RCK) and the Red Cross of Kosovo and Metohija (RCKM). Both Red Cross organizations cover communities that are particularly vulnerable to the approaching (as always) severe winter.

One such vulnerable community is a group of elderly people living in a remote village in the municipality of Zubin Potok (in the area of responsibility of the RCKM, Serb Red Cross entity in Kosovo).

The secretary-general of the RCKM, and local branch secretary have been monitoring their situation and are extremely concerned about their wellbeing. Temperatures will soon plunge to minus 25C with snow falls of a metre. Living conditions are often desperate with broken windows and walls.

The Red Cross has been - and remains - the only organisation that visits Zubin Potok, along with other communities in similar situations. The local branch has delivered some parcels - containing a pair of shoes, woolen jacket and three bottles of edible oil - to the most needy but more support is required.

The RCKM has identified 75 at risk elderly people in areas covered by their branches. The RCKM has followed strict selection criteria to focus on the most vulnerable.

The Federation aims to support the above initiative of the RCKM - as well as the work of the RCK - as both organizations begin their winterization/home care service programme for lonely elderly people without family support to survive the coming winter. A detailed budget will be attached to the first update in 2005 but the global total of the winterisation project is up to CHF 70,000.

This new initiative will begin now and be incorporated into the Kosovo programme that forms part of the Serbia & Montenegro Appeal 2005. [<click here for 2005 appeal>](#)

Several National Societies have visited Kosovo and the Federation Office and have been briefed by the local Red Cross organizations on the most pressing needs this winter. Visitors have included Norwegian RC, Swedish RC, German RC and Danish RC as well as the High Executive Officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway.

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This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning (refer below to access the detailed logframe documents). All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>



Dire: living conditions in Zubin Potok are often desperate.

the Secretary General (SRSG) Mr. Soren Jessen Petersen from Denmark has arrived in Kosovo replacing the outgoing SRSG Mr. Harri Holkeri from Finland.

The Kosovo Assembly Elections were held on 23 October 2004, as announced by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG). The basis of the elections can be found in the Constitutional Framework of Kosovo and have been qualified as free and fair by local and international observers.

Federation developments

In May 2004, the Federation decided to revise the Kosovo project component of its Annual Appeal for Serbia and Montenegro/Kosovo (01.74/2004) after it recognized that plan did not support enough programmes to meet appeals goal of delivering quality services for most vulnerable people. [<click here for update>](#)

In addition, two more national staff (one organization development/youth manager based in Prishtina and one half-time programme assistant based in North Mitrovica) has been hired to support the implementation of the activities planned in the Revised Appeal.

Operational developments

The new UN Special Representative of

The Central Election Commission has approved the final results, following a recount of ballots, for the Kosovo Assembly Election. Women will make up 29% of the new Assembly, 35 of them having been elected.



Home alone: the Red Cross is the only organization reaching these elderly people in remote areas.

Of the main Kosovo Albanian parties, the LDK, which won 45.4% share of the vote, has taken 47 seats. The PDK, with 28.9% of the vote, has won 30 seats, the AAK, with 8.4% of the vote, has won 9 seats, and ORA with 6.2% of the vote, has won 7 seats.

A further 4 Kosovo Albanian entities - PShDK, PD, LPK and PLK - took a total of five seats. Twelve entities were certified to contest the 20 seats reserved or 'set-aside' for Kosovo's smaller communities in addition to the 100 multi-ethnic seats. The Kosovo Serb entities Serbian List for Kosovo and Metohija and the Citizens' Initiative Serbia will receive 8 and 2 seats, respectively.

Update on existing 2004 appeal programme

Organizational Development

Goal: To continue to support the capacities of Red Cross organizations in order to establish a well-functioning Red Cross valuing volunteer commitment to the delivery of quality services to the most vulnerable.

Objectives

Objective 1: To support the governance and the management of the Red Cross organizations in their pursuit of stronger leadership throughout the structure.

Objective 2: To strengthen the capacities of HQ and local branches in designing and implementing priority programmes/projects by mobilizing volunteers in line with the new updated strategy.

(i) Needs and capacity assessment completed based on which the development plan is developed.

The needs and capacity assessment has been completed in September in all branches of the RCK and the RCKM. The aim of the assessment was to create a comprehensive database of all branches of the RCK and the RCKM. The capacity assessment report contains findings and the recommendations about the governance and management level of the organizations.

(ii) Amendment of the current RCK statutes will have been completed, which should include internal and external auditing, diversity in governing structure including youth, financial management and establishment of regional branches.

The Federation Office is supporting the RCK in the amendment process of their current Statutes. Several meetings were held with the RCK Statutes working group in order to discuss:

- the diversity in governing structure, new structure of the organization, which includes the establishment of the regional level (division of roles and responsibilities in different levels of organization including job description of all staff members),
- the role of youth in the structure and financial management.

The new draft Statutes of the RCK will be reviewed by the Federation Office in Kosovo, Regional Delegation in Budapest and the Secretariat to make sure they are based on the Federation Guidelines for National Society Statutes. It is anticipated that the new Statutes will be adopted in the next RCK General Assembly to be convened in January-February 2005. The Statutes of the RCKM will not be amended as they follow the Statutes of the Serbian Red Cross.

(iii) A 3-year strategic plan will be updated to include primary programmes (i.e health and care, youth and disaster management), and related implementation and funding plan.

The other activities such as the Statutes work and preparations for RCK elections have hampered the strategic work plan. The strategic plan will be developed based on the findings of the RCK capacity assessment.

(iv) The capacities of both Red Cross organizations ensuring development and capacity building of both entities is increased.

The Appeal 2005 process was done together with the all RCK programme coordinators at HQs including secretary general. On the job training with the HQ is continuing on regular basis.

(v) Capacity to recruit, retain and maximize the participation of volunteers (including youth) in Red Cross governance and programme activities is increased and improved.

Youth plan for the second half of 2004 has been developed with the RCK youth programme coordinator. The plan was delayed as the youth coordinator resigned and it took some time for the new coordinator to be hired.

The Federation has provided support to both Red Cross organizations in organizing camps for new youth volunteers. 73 new youth volunteers and 11 youth trainers participated in three camps organized by the RCK. Additionally, the RCK organized youth leadership training for 17 new youth leaders.

One summer camp was organized by the RCKM in Zubin Potok. Thirty five youth volunteers and six trainers participated in a 10-day camp.

(vi) The social welfare, first aid and disaster programmes are revived and carried out successfully in both RC entities.

The Federation re-started its financial support to the earlier handed-over programmes to the RCK. The support is given for the social welfare, volunteer first aid and disaster response programmes.

The materials for the sewing classes were purchased and distributed to five RCK branches. Earlier the branches have identified women to participate in the courses led by a volunteer instructor.

Materials for volunteer first aid have been also purchased and distributed to the RCK. Several branches have re-started FA courses in the schools.

Several meetings have been held with the RCK HQ in order to support their efforts in defining the RCK role in DM within the Government Disaster Management Team (DMT).

(vii) Selected programme activities and support to the most vulnerable members of society is jointly implemented when possible, with the aim of taking forward the work to create one RC organization in the territory.

One Red Cross Organization in Kosovo remains a goal but not a priority for the Federation. However, both the Federation and the ICRC will support any activities implemented by the Joint Working Group (JWG).

The JWG members have decided to continue the work on the mobile clinic project. Two of the JWG members have worked on collecting necessary information related to the implementation of this joint project. The draft project proposal is being designed to be presented to the JWG members in the next meeting for approval.

Impact

The capacity assessment has given a clear overview of different topics related to capacities of the RCK and the RCKM branches. The assessment report will be used as an internal management tool for the RCK, but also as a data base for the International Federation and the ICRC in Kosovo.

Constraints

Nothing to date.