

Appeal 2005



VOICING HIDDEN VULNERABILITIES IN EUROPE

A COLLECTIVE APPROACH

Appeal no. 05AA076

Appeal target: CHF 447,443

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

Please click on programme title to go to relevant text

	2005 in CHF
Strengthening the national society	
Advocacy, Communications and Representation	360,043
Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships	87,400
Total <i>Please click here to view the total budget for this appeal</i>	447,443¹

Related appeals:

For all appeals from the Europe/ Central Asia region, please go to the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org/where/europe.asp>

¹ This amount corresponds to USD 384,472 or EURO 295,530

Context of Europe and Central Asia²

Europe and Central Asia is a region stretching from Iceland to Tajikistan, currently covering 52 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The region is characterised by diversity and heterogeneity in its demographic, economic, social and political structures. Europe and Central Asia is home to roughly 860 million people, with great variations of populations in individual countries. Iceland with 300,000 inhabitants has 0.25 per cent of the population of the Russian Federation (144 million), the largest country in the Europe region. In Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic more than two-third of the population live in rural areas, in contrast to Belgium and Belarus where a majority reside in towns and cities. This demographic distribution of the populations influences needs in the region and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' response to it.

At the same time, high poverty levels urge a more intense intervention. The Europe region faces huge disparities between the West with GDP per capita levels of above 50.000 CHF in Luxembourg and Norway and the East with GDP per capita below 400 CHF, as in Tajikistan or Uzbekistan. Yet, the distribution of income is relative more equal in Kyrgyzstan and Hungary (Gini Index³ 29 resp. 24) than in Turkmenistan and Turkey (both Gini Index 40). Similarly, the economic activity rate of women is much higher in Albania, Georgia and Ukraine than in Ireland, Spain or Austria.

This diverse region is also embedded in a rapidly changing political environment. The European Union (EU) has enlarged its boundaries, creating new opportunities for the acceded countries, leaving those outside the EU borders and their vulnerable communities in the shadows as attention turns to the integration of the new members. The transition of centrally planned economies towards market economy and the effects of social welfare and health reforms are reflected in decreasing expenditures in social services across the region. Communities at the margin – economic poor, elderly, disabled, HIV/AIDS affected, refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and ethnic minorities – are paying the highest price for these changes, both in the East and West. Among others, with post 9/11 new political discourses emerged across Europe resulting in tightened security controls and visa regimes, as well as in an increase in racism, discrimination and xenophobia, often coupled with violence. The need to promote humanitarian values, reduce discrimination and restore respect and dignity for each person in Europe/Central Asia is more pressing than ever.

Non-discrimination is of particular concern to migrant and ethnic communities: The new EU borders trigger off new challenges in refugee protection and migration management in- and outside the EU. Access to health care services, to accommodation, a fair asylum procedure or humane migration policies are some of the major problems faced by refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, coupled with a lack of protection against discrimination, exploitation and abuse, including smuggling and trafficking. The result is that many migrants find themselves in an irregular situation and therefore with no legal status and little or no recourse to basic rights. At the same time, many of the Western European countries are relying heavily on the positive contributions migrants make to their economies. Furthermore, financial remittances from migrants back to their countries of origin exceed today the contributions of the official development aid worldwide.

² Source of statistics unless otherwise specified: UNDP, Human Development Report 2004, UNDP, New York, 2004.

³ The Gini index measures inequality over the entire distribution of income or consumption. A value of 0 represents perfect equality, a value of 100 a perfect inequality.



Young people will be the main target of harm reduction measures and in turn, the invaluable resource to fight against HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis

While the vulnerability of migrants is a humanitarian concern across the region, the rapidly growing rates of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis are especially alarming in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Approximately 1.5 million persons are living with the virus in the region, which is now spreading beyond the traditional high risk groups. Mother-to-child transmission as well as young people, among them injecting drug users, are the new venues of infection. Harm reduction measures will be the cornerstone of a comprehensive response targeting especially young people, even though access to treatment and the growing need for home care can no longer be overlooked. Similarly, the tuberculosis situation is critical in 16 of the 52 countries in Europe and Central Asia with a high resurgence and dramatically increased notification rates. Despite the implementation of the DOTS⁴ programme in many of the high-burden countries⁵, tuberculosis remains the

leading infectious killer in the Europe region. Multi-drug resistance tuberculosis coupled with the rise of HIV/AIDS infections puts an increased pressure to act.

In such a diverse region as Europe, with its unique combination of active national societies and combined global presence on the regional and international level, the Federation is well placed to play a significant role to help to protect human dignity in Europe and Central Asia and confront new vulnerabilities in their communities.

An important element of the wide ranging support the Federation Secretariat offers to its 'Europe/Central Asia Federation' of national societies is guiding advocacy, communications and representation efforts, as well as facilitating coordination and cooperation to enable Red Cross Red Crescent action on the ground in order to have an increased positive impact on beneficiaries.

This appeal seeks to better align such efforts through a powerful Federation voice, presence and action in influential national, regional and international forums that could lead to a positive difference being made to people's lives.

The Europe Department in the Federation takes the responsibility to support national societies across the region in addressing these challenges and to respond adequately to the emerging trends in this huge and diverse region full of contradictions.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Context

The Federation recognises its objective 'to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by national societies, with a view of preventing and alleviating human suffering and thereby contributing to the maintenance and the promotion of peace in the world'⁶. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are thus the essential actors to address these challenges in their national contexts and the Federation remains a support structure towards the development of the national societies as outlined in

⁴ DOTS = directly observed treatment short-course

⁵ Russian Federation, Ukraine, Romania, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

⁶ See Constitution of the Federation, article 2, paragraph 1 and the Statutes of the Movement, article 6, paragraph 3.

'Strengthening National Societies and delivering a more effective service'⁷. The call for more flexibility, better communication and cooperation, for effective representation and advocacy, for facilitation instead of implementation, for quality service delivery within appropriate structures, and the desire for closer proximity to national societies led the Europe Department within the Federation to re-think its own working approach.

In 2002, the 'Europe Implementation Plan' was formulated, which recognised this need for change and outlines a vision for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Europe in order to meet the challenges ahead. Since then, time has passed and the focus of delivery still remains largely directed towards national societies as 'aid receivers', rather than to perceive the region's national societies more holistically as partners in a common way forward. The organisational challenges in 2003 and 2004 not only slowed the process of re-orientation but also forced the Federation in general and the Europe Department in particular to strongly emphasise its roots in strengthening the national societies, improving effectiveness and efficiency through increased cooperation and coherence and improving the Movement's image and its relations with governments and external partners⁸.

At the same time, the VIth European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in April 2002 in Berlin, has adopted a 'Berlin Charter', an 'Action Plan on Health' and an 'Action Plan on Migration'. European national societies committed themselves to a wide range of activities addressing the most urgent needs in health and migration in the region, but are yet to transform some of their good intentions into measurable outcomes, especially in the area of advocacy and international representation. The Federation has an important role to play in guiding and supporting the national societies for this transformation to happen in the time to the next European Regional Conference to be held in Moscow in 2006.

The Regional Conference in Berlin, however, was also crucial along the road towards the statutory conferences⁹ held in Geneva in 2003. The 28th International Conference was organised under the theme of 'Protecting human dignity' which seemed especially appropriate for Europe where different forms of discrimination directed towards specific communities, such as migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, HIV/AIDS infected persons, Roma or other ethnic minorities, are a daily reality. A pledge by the Federation on 'non-discrimination and respect for diversity'¹⁰ recognised this reality, governments and national societies have furthermore committed to a wide-range of other activities in the core areas of the Strategy 2010.

Background and achievements/ lessons to date

The needs in health and care, disaster management and organisational development are addressed through the Europe appeals for Central Europe, Turkey & Caucuses, Russian Federation, Belarus/Moldova/Ukraine, and Central Asia. The Federation has been traditionally supporting the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in these countries in order to strengthen their capacities and to assist the vulnerable populations. Throughout the years, this support by the Federation has been an assistance for the vulnerable which changed lives in the communities and helped to alleviate the suffering of the poor and marginalised.

The assistance to the poor and vulnerable populations can be achieved through different avenues. All statutory conferences¹¹ of the past years, as well as the major RC/RC Movement documents recognise the need to break the silence and give a voice to those in the shadows and the margins. The Federation has made progress in this

⁷ IFRC, Strengthening National Societies and delivering a more effective service: A change Strategy for the Secretariat, IFRC, Geneva, 2003.

⁸ See strategic objectives 1-3 in: IFRC, Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, ICRC/IFRC, Geneva, 2001, as well as the strategic directions in: IFRC, Strategy 2010: To improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity, IFRC, Geneva, 1999.

⁹ General Assembly, Council of Delegates and International Conference

¹⁰ See 28th International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference, Non-discrimination and respect for diversity: a pledge by the International Federation, Geneva, 2003.

¹¹ E.g. VIth European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies held in Berlin 2002, 28th International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference held in Geneva 2003.

regard through its global programme, however, the potential to reach out to governments, regional and national organisations, as well as international European bodies has not yet been fulfilled. The RC/EU office in Brussels, with its mandate to position the Federation and its EU member National Societies towards the EU institutions, has gained valuable experience and successes in this area. Other European bodies, however, such as the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OCSE) have not been targeted in a systematic way. In addition, there has been insufficient contact with other UN bodies of relevance to the region, such as and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the WHO Regional Office in Copenhagen. There is a clear need, demonstrated by the activities of the national societies, to intensify cooperation with regional organisations of relevance.

A pre-requisite for successful advocacy and international representation is a clear position in key areas, such as health, migration, the promotion of non-discrimination and respect and disaster risk reduction which has to encompass the diverse perspectives of the region. The Federation seizes all opportunities to inspire, encourage and facilitate activities of all 52 European national societies in advocacy and international representation in order to fulfil its mandate as outlined in the Constitution. A more coordinated and focused effort by the Federation and its Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will give a greater voice to those in need and a stronger influence towards policy makers to more adequately respond to their vulnerabilities. Resolutions by governments in international fora are tools that can be used by Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on national level to improve the lives of the vulnerable populations. Local realities inform policy makers on the international level and international decisions are impacting on local realities.

A sound communications strategy will serve as a powerful instrument in order to link the local realities to an overarching global approach in advocacy. Europe-specific publications, a coherent approach to the European pages of the public website and the FedNet, including Russian translations, as well as international representation are tools to support the advocacy efforts in few key areas. The development of a Red Cross/Red Crescent Europe advocacy and a communications strategy is the ambition in the year ahead. This ambition can only be achieved in partnership with, and building on the expertise already existing in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Europe and Central Asia.

The strength of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is its network of volunteers with its vast knowledge and experience and its commitment towards a common goal. The Regional Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provide an important platform to share experience, create a dialogue and to agree on a common path forward to address the urgent needs of the region. The European Regional Conference held in Berlin in 2002 provided the cornerstone to our collective work in health and migration, themes which will find their way to the next Regional Conference to be held in Moscow 2006. The planning process for this upcoming statutory meeting has started already, even though detailed and concrete preparations will begin in the course of 2005. A special mechanism will be set up in the preparatory process in order to provide adequate support to the Russian Red Cross Society in organising the Regional Conference.

Finally, the Federation will continue its efforts in Europe and Central Asia to implement the change strategy and to adapt its work as outlined above. The review of the structure of the delegations in Central and Eastern Europe will be continued in order to achieve further synergies across the region and render more appropriate services to the predominantly Russian speaking national societies. Service units, such as the regional reporting unit and regional finance unit in Ankara, have been established in the past years and were able to address the needs of both, Eastern and Western European national societies.

Further work will be carried out in regards to adapting efficient disaster response and logistical services to regional needs, building on the expertise in the region where possible. The RC/EU Office's role in Europe will be central in these discussions in order to ensure a more coherent and holistic approach towards the region. The Federation's Europe department will therefore continue its review of the general working approach in order to provide a broader framework for dialogue and cooperation, including a more coherent approach towards the European RC/RC networks, which will strengthen the support to European national societies to deliver their

services on local and national level. This approach will also include the development of equal partnerships among the different European National Societies aimed at sharing best practices and building on the diverse strengths existing across the region. Finally, strategic alliances will be further explored with external organisations relevant to the RC/RC agenda.

Goal

Facilitate and promote European Red Cross and Red Crescent activities to alleviate human suffering through a strengthened coordination, cooperation, and equal partnerships, as well as improved advocacy and communications.

Objectives

- Increased influence on humanitarian policy and decision makers at the international, regional and national level through a coherent and strategic approach in advocacy and communications.
- Establish a shared commitment to a Europe-wide cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) for institutional strengthening, capacity building and disaster response mechanisms in Europe and Central Asia.

Expected results**Advocacy, Communications and Representation**

- Developed a coherent advocacy and communications strategy for the Europe and Central Asian region
- Improved advocacy support to national societies in their national advocacy objectives and more effective advocacy and representation activities by Federation and national societies staff at international, regional and national events
- Produced publications (Bridge, thematic brochures) to support the advocacy efforts of the European national societies, including the updating of the public website and FedNet for Europe and Central Asia.
- Russian translations of key documents

Coordination, Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

- Agreed cooperation agreement strategy for the institutional strengthening, capacity building and disaster response mechanisms in Europe.
- Built strategic alliances with external organizations relevant to the RC/RC agenda, as well as equal partnerships among Red Cross/ Red Crescent Societies in the Europe region.

For further details related to this appeal please contact

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All international assistance to support vulnerable communities seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct (For details, please go to the website at <http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/conduct/>) and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, according to the SPHERE Project. (For details, please go to the website at <http://www.sphereproject.org/>)

This appeal reflects a range of programmes to be implemented in 2005, and the related funding requirements. These are based upon a broader, multi-year framework of the Federation's Project Planning Process (PPP). The PPP products (logframes) can be requested through the respective regional department at the secretariat in Geneva. The programmes were developed with the relevant national societies, taking account of the activities of other organisations. The programmes also respect and support the wish of all countries and international

organisations to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals. (For details, please go to the website at <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>)

For further information on all aspects of the Federation, please go to the Federation's official web page at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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BUDGET 2005

PROGRAMME BUDGETS SUMMARY

Appeal no.: 05AA076

Name: VOICING HIDDEN VULNERABILITIES IN EUROPE

PROGRAMME:	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	Emergency	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Shelter & construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clothing & textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seeds & plants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teaching materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land & Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	0	0	0	0	4,000	0	4,000
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital exp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENSES	0	0	0	0	4,000	0	4,000
Warehouse & Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicules	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Programme Support	0	0	0	0	29,083	0	29,083
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	0	0	0	0	29,083	0	29,083
Personnel-delegates	0	0	0	0	162,000	0	162,000
Personnel-national staff	0	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000
Consultants	0	0	0	0	75,000	0	75,000
PERSONNEL	0	0	0	0	257,000	0	257,000
W/shops & Training	0	0	0	0	12,500	0	12,500
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	0	0	0	0	12,500	0	12,500
Travel & related expenses	0	0	0	0	13,500	0	13,500
Information	0	0	0	0	94,000	0	94,000
Other General costs	0	0	0	0	37,360	0	37,360
GENERAL EXPENSES	0	0	0	0	144,860	0	144,860
TOTAL BUDGET:	0	0	0	0	447,443	0	447,443