

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

VOICING HIDDEN VULNERABILITIES IN EUROPE A COLLECTIVE APPROACH

15 July 2005

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA076

Original Appeal Target: CHF447,444

Revised Appeal Target: CHF 252,581 [<click here for revised budget at end>](#)

Programme Update No. 1;

Period covered: January – June 2005

Appeal coverage: For live update: [<click here>](#)

For related appeals, see Federation's Europe reports homepage: [<click here>](#)

Programme summary

The collective approach to voicing hidden vulnerabilities in Europe works in tandem with national society domestic programmes in 52 countries as well as Federation capacity building in several locations via its country and regional programmes [<click here>](#).

The two objectives of this appeal – increased influence through a strategic approach in advocacy and communications and the building of a Europe-wide cooperation agreement – aim to challenge structural barriers that keep vulnerability hidden as well as add weight to programmes on the ground that are challenging marginalization.

While there have been achievements, overall progress, understandably, has been slow. The budget has been revised downwards to reflect realistic implementation of activities until December 2005. Greater partner support and financial engagement, however, is sought during the second half of 2005.

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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. 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 (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For more information please access the Federation website at: www.ifrc.org

Operational developments

This appeal seeks to better align the voice, presence and action of the International Federation in influential national, regional and international forums that could lead to a positive difference in people's lives. The challenges in the region that should be addressed through this appeal remain manifold: The diversity of the population, the disparities in poverty level and demographic distribution, the rapidly changing political environment with increased violence in European cities, discriminatory practices across the region, and the vulnerability of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, as well as the alarming rise of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis infected persons in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The activities of this appeal are not only shaped by the general context of Europe and Central Asia, but they are also influenced by global and local events. The tsunami of 26 December 2004 also left its finger prints on this appeal as human resources were dedicated for a period of six months to the tsunami operation and attention of the public focussed on the disastrous effects of the tidal waves. This has impacted on plans and consequently the budget, which has been revised downwards to reflect the realistic implementation of activities in the second half of the year. Activities which were implemented from January to June 2005 – though at a slower pace than originally anticipated – are described below.

Advocacy, Communications, and Representation

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.

Objective: 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.

Expected Results:

- 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 updating of the public website and FedNet for Europe and Central Asia.
- Russian translations of key documents.

Progress/Achievements, Impact and Constraints:

In order to effectively influence humanitarian policy and decision makers, the International Federation and its national societies have to position themselves on issues of particular relevance to their national contexts. The International Federation aims to support and facilitate this through provision of sound documentation and publications:

In April 2005, the recent issue of the 'Bridge' with a focus on *human trafficking* has been disseminated to national societies, as well as to policy makers, such as the EU Parliamentarians. Fundraising, budgeting and conceptualisation of this issue started in 2004 and was finalised in 2005. Expenditure therefore does not appear in the accounts of this appeal, even though its impact will be measured during this year. Feedback received on the publication was positive. Many national societies appreciated the new focus of the Bridge on specific themes which allows them to learn more about Red Cross and Red Crescent activities across the region, as well as to foster their own reflection process on the themes within the organisation. The Bridge is available in English, Russian, Bulgarian and Romanian, a request for hardcopies can be sent to the Europe Department (see contact details on front).

A second issue of Bridge is planned in 2005, focusing on health and care. However, pledges have not been received so far. This issue is planned to be published in time for the General Assembly in November 2005 in Seoul, Republic of Korea and shall contribute to the discussions at the statutory meeting from the Europe and Central Asian perspective. Due to the difficult funding situation, a third issue, originally planned for this year, will now be deferred to the first half of 2006 and has been thus taken out of the budget of this year.

The growing incidence of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis is also a major concern in the region. In order to provide practical advocacy advice, information has been gathered around *HIV/AIDS, injecting drug use and harm reduction* describing, among others, the international context, prevention activities of the European national societies, the different positions, statements and policies of the International Federation on this issue. This comprehensive document provides a useful background to all national societies and supports their efforts to develop context-specific positions. The document is now in the process of finalisation. An electronic copy of the latest version can be requested from the Europe Department. Due to lack of funding, this document could not be published yet.

Similarly to this HIV/AIDS documentation, a guide on migration is yet to be produced in view of the VIIth European Regional Conference to be held in April 2006 in Moscow. The publication might have to be deferred to 2006 in case no funding can be received this year.

These publications complement the International Federation's efforts to support national societies in their advocacy work. Individualised support has been also provided to national societies upon their request in regards to different issues, be it on themes (e.g. anti-discrimination work, humanitarian values, networks, advocacy in general, etc). This work will be continued in the course of the year.

Due to the limited human resources in advocacy and communications linked to this appeal in the first half of the year, work on the public website and the FedNet could not be started. In addition, the overall advocacy and communications strategy is anticipated to be finalised only by end of the year, even though a sound basis for this work has been already started. Russian translations of key documents could not be realised due to the lack of funding. Adjustments in the budget have been made accordingly in all these areas.

Objective: 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:

- 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 partnership among Red Cross / Red Crescent Societies in the Europe region.

Progress/Achievements, Impact and Constraints:

A major achievement on the global level was the agreed Cooperation between the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the *World Health Organisation (WHO)*, signed in May 2005. This strategic partnership foresees enhanced collaboration between the two institutions, especially in the areas of emergencies and health action in crisis situation, in HIV/AIDS, and in advocacy. This worldwide agreement has a specific impact on the European level and triggered further discussions with WHO Europe, based in Copenhagen, and the International Federation's Europe Department. Discussions have only just started, however, it is anticipated that the specific collaboration on European level will be firmed up in the coming months.

The global partnership "*Stop TB*", hosted by WHO, has established a specific working group on advocacy, communications, and social mobilisation. The International Federation and Russia are both members of this global partnership¹. The establishment of this working group, the critical situation of tuberculosis in Eastern Europe and plans to break down the network on a regional level has allowed the Europe Department to enter further discussions with the global partnership on increased collaboration.

The support to the RC/EU Office has been limited in the last six months due to the reduced human resources within Europe Department, yet, the support in the area of *civil protection* within the European Union continued. Following the position paper in response to the "European Commission Communication on Reinforcing the Civil Protection Capacity of the European Union"², further observations were elaborated

¹The International Federation has been also elected as a board member of the global partnership and is represented by the Secretary General of the Mozambique Red Cross Society.

²EU Commission Communication COM (2004) 200 final

on the “Consultation on the Future Instrument addressing Prevention of, Preparedness for and Response to Disasters”³, which are now being finalized.

Finally, the preparations for the *VIIIth European Regional Conference* of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to be held in April Moscow 2006 began over the past six months. The Steering Committee as a planning group for the Conference has been constituted and working groups on health & care and migration established. These preparatory bodies are supported by the Europe Department and close interaction is ongoing with the Russian Red Cross Society as host of the Conference. Even though the framework for the organisation of the conference is set, concrete results in the planning process are as yet slow. It is anticipated that in the course of the second half of 2005, considerable progress will be made in both working groups on substantial issues and all organisational and administrative arrangements (which will be publicized). A solidarity fund will be established and shall facilitate the participation of all 52 members of Europe and Central Asia in the Conference. A Staff-on-Loan is sought for the Europe Department to support this preparatory process. This person has been originally planned as Senior Officer, but now a decision was reached to look for a Senior Assistant for the remainder of the year. The budget revision reflects this change accordingly.

Conclusions

The voicing hidden vulnerabilities programme has become more integrated and aligned with both national society and Federation programming on the ground as well as advocacy initiatives at the global level. The second half of 2005 – with greater partner engagement – should see continued progress leading up to the Moscow conference, which will chart advocacy and communication strategy for 2006 through to 2010.

³ EU Commission Communication COM (2005) 137 final – Improving the Community Civil Protection Mechanism

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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 Supplies & Services	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	0	0	0
Medical equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND, VEHICLES & EQUIPMEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport & Vehicles cost	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRANSPORT & STORAGE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Staff	0	0	0	0	10,870	0	10,870
Regionally Deployed Staff	0	0	0	0	102,875	0	102,875
National staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Society Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consultants	0	0	0	0	4,979	0	4,979
PERSONNEL	0	0	0	0	118,724	0	118,724
Workshops & Training	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
WORKSHOPS & TRAINING	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
Travel & related expenses	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
Information & Public Rela	0	0	0	0	90,000	0	90,000
Office Running Costs	0	0	0	0	5,760	0	5,760
Communication Costs	0	0	0	0	1,680	0	1,680
Professional Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other General Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GENERAL EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	107,440	0	107,440
Asset Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DEPRECIATION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contributions & Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRIBUTIONS & TRANSFERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Programme Support	0	0	0	0	16,417	0	16,417
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	0	0	0	0	16,417	0	16,417
TOTAL BUDGET:	0	0	0	0	252,581	0	252,581