

Mid-Year report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Appeal No. MAABA002

31/August/2011

This report covers the period 01/01/2011 to 31/06/2011



In June 2011, Kids Festival, Red Cross in Action: First Aid Presentation. Photo by: Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina

In brief

Programme outcome: The supported programs by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) in Bosnia and Herzegovina aim to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and ease the impact from disasters and public health emergencies. The programs also promote healthy and safe living, social inclusion and respect for human dignity. They aim to increase the National Society's (NS) and communities' capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability, as well as to reduce intolerance and discrimination while simultaneously meeting the humanitarian needs.

Ongoing support has been given to the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCS BH) in terms of organizational development and capacity-building initiatives, with an increasing focus on peer-to-peer support. The organizational development program is considered a fundamental program addressing National Society's structure, procedures and staff development. Great attention is geared towards the programs' self-sustainability, resource mobilization within the country and overall development of the National Society. All of these components are quintessential to continuation of service provision and humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Two other strongly supported and predominately needed programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina are Health Care and Disaster Management. The Health and Care program increases the National Society's capacities in providing services to vulnerable population through Tuberculosis (TB) prevention, at-risk population TB screening, Home Care and First Aid projects.

Through the Disaster Management program, the National Society coordinates and manages activities aimed to assist people affected by man-made and natural disasters' emergencies. In addition to regular activities, DREF funded emergency operations managed to assist 5,800 people. For more details please visit:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRBA0062dfr.pdf>

Promotion of human rights, prevention of discrimination and promotion of social inclusion of minorities has been a central activity of the National Society. Good example of such activities is the Population Movement program. The program places significant attention on Roma minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina as one of the most vulnerable groups of the society. This program was recently started in some branches with pilot projects such as First Aid for Roma people, primarily based on participatory approach. Through the pilot projects, the National Society intends to obtain first hand information on current situation of Roma minority in order to develop an appropriate program with a support of other regional Red Cross Societies and possibly participating western National Societies. The Red Cross in Bosnia and Herzegovina takes a particular pride in a winning Emergency First Aid Response Team composed of Roma children who are eager to learn and share the First Aid knowledge with their communities. The team won first places at the municipality level First Aid Competition in both categories; elementary and high school.

Programme(s) summary: The International Federation continues to support the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina, its efforts to provide efficient and quality services to the most vulnerable groups within following programmes;

- **Disaster Management (DM):** In addition to the ongoing preparedness activities, dealing with coordination among stakeholders at local level, the International Federation provided support for activities aimed at people affected by severe floods. The Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina continues lobbying with the government for a defined role in Disaster Management granted by the state law.
- **Health and Care:** The focus is on HIV and AIDS and TB awareness. Particular attention is given to the home care program and advocacy on the “First Aid at Work” project started in May this year.
- **Organizational Development (DM):** The focus here is on competency building, sustainable and effective structure, systems, procedures, legal aspects, knowledge and skills development and other capacities.

Financial situation: The total 2011 budget is CHF 541,795, of which CHF 264,197 (49 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 145,100 (27 per cent) of the budget.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

No. of people we have reached:

A total of 14,303 people benefited directly from Federation supported programmes; out of which 5,800 have been assisted through emergency Response activities funded through the Federation’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund. In addition to this approximately 40,000 children were reached through the Kids Festival alone.

January - June 2011, Bosnia and Herzegovina, programme	Targeted groups	People Reached
Disaster Management	Multipurpose field teams and units	568.00
Health and Care	HIV/AIDS, Blood Donors, TBC. Vulnerable people	13,035.00
Organizational Development	Staff, volunteers	700.00
Total number of people reached		14,303.00

Our partners: Italian Red Cross provided support as both multilateral and bilateral donor. Austrian, Spanish and Swiss Red Cross have contributed mostly as bilateral donors on programmes coordinated by the IFRC. International Committee of the Red Cross provided further support for program Humanitarian Diplomacy, Tracing Service and Organizational Development programs. The DFID provided support as multilateral donor while the UNDP

provided support as bilateral donor. Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees together with the Ministry of Security and Rescue and other local authorities were active partners in providing support from the governmental level.

Context

The major political challenge in Bosnia and Herzegovina still remains the constitutional reform. The country is in a situation of political deadlock and negotiations to form the state government ten months after October 2010 elections are marked by small if any progress. The quibble over Ministerial posts leads Bosnia and Herzegovina to fall further and further behind other countries in the region. The good example of such political shortcomings is a standstill on privatization of the state enterprises. Furthermore, the lack of central government perpetuates the climate of uncertainty in the country's economy discouraging potential investments and squeezing the existing ones.

As a result, the living standard for people in Bosnia and Herzegovina has worsened in the past six months with a poverty and unemployment rates becoming more acute. Around one-third of the population remains unemployed. Last year the number of unemployed persons registered in the state unemployment bureau was just over 519,000. According to the bureau there was 0.20 % increase in unemployment compared to January last year. In addition, the unemployment rate is 27.2% higher than in other countries of the region. Two-thirds of unemployed are youth and more than half are women. In February 2011, Bosnia and Herzegovina had the highest basic monthly living costs in the Balkan region. With the current increase of basic food prices and oil, poverty is becoming widespread among unemployed people, welfare dependants, rural population, pensioners, children in large families, displaced persons, minority groups and self-supported mothers.

Consequently, the humanitarian situation is not improving and is largely going unnoticed in the talks on formation of the new government and economic crisis in the country. More Bosnians are considered poor and vulnerable; pensions remain below the threshold of the relevant poverty line and elderly people are becoming particularly vulnerable.

The political and socio-economic situation in the country did not spare the Red Cross in Bosnia and Herzegovina either. The National Society is experiencing increasing demand for the financial assistance. This demand is primarily due to the delayed support from the government and it arises at the same time as the government cuts-back welfare programs, deepening the humanitarian impact on the most vulnerable population in the country. However, the International Federation tightens its planning, fully involving the National Society by focusing on organizational development and capacity building to ensure that funding gaps are addressed. The continuation of TB prevention, Home care and First Aid projects is a good example of accounted gaps.

In addition to the political and socio-economic issues, flooding, heavy snowfalls and landslides occur on yearly basis in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The lag effects of the December 2010 floods were felt for the first couple of months this year. More than 5,000 houses, buildings and facilities were flooded. Approximately 20,000 people have been affected by flooding, and around 5,818 people were evacuated from different parts of the country. The Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina alone identified approximately 1,450 families (5,800 people) in need of urgent assistance in terms of basic food, safe drinking water and non-food items.

The reoccurring natural and man-made emergencies represent a valid test of the National Society's capacity to effectively and timely respond to the emergencies; a test which the National Society passed with flying colours. With the support of the Federation funds, a massive response was organized to meet the most urgent needs of the disaster affected population. As a result of the ongoing activities, the National Society improved its internal coordination and recognized the need to increase its collaboration with the state authorities in order to promote and participate in effective and centralized coordination of all stakeholders. A series of negotiations took place with the relevant Ministries to assure the National Society's partnership with the Government in Disaster

Management. The political and administrative set-up of the country certainly affects the speed of the negotiations but the early results and willingness of the respectable authorities to participate in negotiations give a promising note.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management (DM)

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose:
Save lives, protect livelihoods and strengthen recovery from disasters and crisis

The disaster management programme budget for 2011 is, CHF 126,044.

Programme component 1: National disaster response
Component outcome 1: A National disaster response team (NDRT) consisting of members from the cantonal and regional level is established
Component outcome 2: Cantonal and regional disaster response teams have received refresher training and equipment has been updated

Achievements:

In regard to the NDRT a set of meetings with the General Secretary, DM program coordinator and relevant Ministries took place where a decision on law was made, defining the Red Cross areas of jurisdiction on the national level such as first aid, water rescue, water purification and camps. This decision is considered a major step towards establishing the national disaster response team. On the other hand, the improvement of the equipment of the NS represents a permanent need.

Component outcome 3: Red Cross national disaster response procedures defined, with clear responsibilities and tasks identified in the whole structure. Procedures for rapid assessment and effective flow of information adopted at all levels of structure.

Achievements:

With the support of the Federation's Europe Zone (EZ) Office Disaster Management Coordinator several meetings were held with the NS management. The meetings resulted in a plan of action for defining the Standard Operative Procedures (SOP) in disaster response in the National Society. The National Society wishes to implement this Plan of Action (PoA) in the second half of 2011.

Programme component 2: Risk reduction in municipalities
Component outcome 1: Target communities' vulnerability to disasters has been reduced through community-based projects

Achievements:

The limited resources available to the National Society have been engaged for most of the time in responding to the floods that occurred at the beginning of the year, therefore the risk reduction activities have been delayed in favour of the more urgent ones. Decreasing communities' vulnerability still remains one of the priorities of the National Society.

Programme component 3: Disaster plans

Component outcome 1: The National Society has updated its vulnerability and capacity assessment and developed good coordination plans with the civil protection at national and local levels.

Achievements:

With the Federation's support, the National Society initiated a series of meetings with the relevant Ministries focusing on actions that will result in timely disaster management response and efficient delivery of services. The main step towards achieving this goal is for the National Society to have a defined role in Disaster Management at the state level; a role that is formalized and granted by the Ministries and the state law.

In its pursuit, the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina initiated negotiations with the Ministry of Security and Rescue. The aim of these negotiations is to assure that the National Society obtains leading partnership role in Disaster Management. Two official meetings with the Deputy Minister took place early this year. The main focus was to reach agreement in establishing one state level Red Cross DM team whose responsibilities will be recognized by the state disaster rescue and protection law. The mutual benefit and need for the centralized disaster management response at national level shortly became evident. Consequently, the Red Cross in Bosnia and Herzegovina has the possibility to become main actor through which all humanitarian assistance will be channelled during the emergency disaster responses.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in joint gathering on Disaster Management in April. Through the NATO and Ministry of Security and Rescue initiative a multipurpose field unit responsible for emergency disaster response national and international level ought to be formed. It was decided that the unit will be formed by the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina once again proving the National Society's key role in disaster management in the country.

The National Society became key participant in all meetings taking place to discuss and agree upon the new National Disaster Management Response System. In addition, the National Society together with the Federation has been invited to the next regional seminar on legal components of the Disaster Management taking place in November 2011 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Constraints or Challenges

Delays in forming the state government proves to be one of the major constraints in executing decisions made in regard to the National Society leading role in Disaster Management at national level. In other words, the realization and enforcement of the decision to have one national DM team composed of the Red Cross members is on hold until the new government is formed. This delay has also blocked the financial support given to the National Society and it is therefore necessary to support the NS with all possible means and in all aspects of the disaster management response.

Health and Care

b)The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose:

Enable healthy and safe living.

The health and care programme budget for 2011 is, CHF 69,673

Programme component 1: Prevention and control of HIV and AIDS and TB

Component outcome 1: The number of exposed people seeking HIV counselling or treatment or both has increased.

Component outcome 2: The National Society has contributed to TB control and prevention through promotion and support of Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS) and National Society programme staff have been further trained

Achievements:

HIV awareness is increased among the Bosnian youth through training of young people for advocacy and raising the general awareness level of the population on sexually transmitted infections and diseases. In regards to the planned activities those were implemented on low scale and will be organised and conducted during the second part of the year.

The National Society continues with the implementation of the Global Fund for Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM) supported project “Further Strengthening of DOTS Strategy in BiH”. The project focuses on ensuring and maintaining access for at-risk groups to the tuberculosis (TB) screening and medical assistance. The project activities include collecting samples, testing, registering and keeping the record of the new TB cases and ensuring regular check-ups for already detected cases.

By the beginning of this year, 9,159 persons were examined by the existing Red Cross Mobile Teams. Total of 5,801 sputum samples were collected and 385 individuals were referred for medical assistance for closer examination out of which 17 new cases were identified. This year, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina added two new Mobile Teams, consequently broadening the scope of its operations. The teams are now able to reach more people through the TB program. TB data are being collected and regularly updated by the National Society in central database. The data and subsequent information provide records necessary for better coordination of tuberculosis activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the database the following records were obtained;

Targeted groups	Beneficiaries screened	Directed to further medical examination	New cases of TB
Roma people	199		
Displaced persons	2457		4
Prisoners	39		2
Youth and Poor	431		3
Elderly (65 <)	279		1
Others	71		1
Total	3476	193	11

Table 1. January- July 2011 TB Screening data

In total 3476 people were examined between January and July 2011. 193 persons were referred for medical assistance for closer examination of which 11 new cases were identified. The ongoing check-ups and medical assistance is provided to the new TB patients. By adding two additional Mobile Teams, the Red Cross in Bosnia and Herzegovina was able to reach 298 more people through the program compared to the last year (Please refer to Table 2). The number of identified TB cases more than doubled.

Targeted Groups	Beneficiaries screened	Directed to further medical examination	New cases of TB
Roma people	188		
Displaced persons	1373		3
Prisoners	902		
Youth and Poor	173		
Elderly (65<)	140		
Others	402		2
Total	3178	120	5

Table 2. January-July 2010 TB Screening data

Programme component 2: Home care
Component outcome 1: The National Society has a leading role in advocacy in the area of health care and social protection of elderly people, actively supporting the Government's planning
Component outcome 2: The National society provides quality Home Care services while ensuring long term sustainability in cooperation with authorities.

Achievements:

The Home Care program is being implemented in all of the 160 local Red Cross branches despite the limited funding and thanks to the Red Cross staff and volunteers. Armed with knowledge and skills necessary to provide the care, our volunteers pay house visits to vulnerable elderly, administer food parcels; provide personal hygiene services and assistance with civil matters (paperwork, directions, general information etc).

Since the program review in 2006, the identified implementation methodology continues to prove itself in improving the home care services, enhancing transparency in planning and reporting, acquiring new partnerships with local authorities and increasing the visibility of Red Cross branches in local communities. With the support of the Federation, the NS is also preparing a plan to introduce some active ageing practices in the home care programme as part of a global think tank on Ageing. The conclusion includes the need to increase the capacity of RCRC National Societies in working with older people and to develop common methodology and some manuals with specific guidelines for managers, social workers and volunteers working with older people as no specific formal manuals currently exist.

A project proposal is under preparation and is to be submitted to the potential donors. The proposal will focus on the use of participatory methodologies to identify socially useful activities that can be performed by the beneficiaries of the Home Care program.

The **Conference on Home Care** took place in June 2011 in Montenegro. 50 representatives from 12 countries, including representatives from the RCRC Movement, institutions, Government agencies and Civil Society Organizations participated at the conference, organized by the Red Cross of Montenegro, supported by Austrian and Italian Red Crosses and the Federation Europe Zone Office. The special attention was given to the various models of providing home care in the region and in accordance with the different perspectives of the governments and civil society organizations. The conference provided to the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina a large audience for discussion of the Home Care program in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the innovative solutions adopted in its implementation.

Programme component 3: General health and voluntary blood donation

Component outcome 1: A unified voluntary non-remunerated blood donor database is established within the National Society.

Component outcome 2: The National Society develops capacities to provide first aid courses according to the European first aid certificate.

Achievements

The planned activities for a unified voluntary non-remunerated blood donor data base established within the National Society are on standby due to the current priorities of the National Society.

Thanks to its activist reputation in regard to voluntary donating blood, the Red Cross in Bosnia and Herzegovina successfully organizes the voluntary blood donations events all through the year. The RC brings in the new and recurring voluntary blood donors to the events and in collaboration with local transfuziology mobile teams collects the blood dosages.

For the records on the number of voluntary blood donors during the January-July 2011 period please refer to the table below;

No	CANTON	Number of voluntary blood donors	Number of collected blood dosages
1	USK		1.514
2	PK	374	318
3	TK	2.536	1.866
4	ZDK	3.5	735
5	BPK	149	149
6	SBK	152	100
7	HNK	1.014	826
8	ZH	527	392
9	KS	1.126	
10	HB	181	134
	TOTAL:	9559	6034

Table 2. Voluntary blood donors from January to July 2011.

The First Aid at Work project aims to develop in the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina the capacity to provide training courses for Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and First Aid (FA) training according to the European First Aid Certificate (EFAC). Further objective of the project is to guarantee the provision of the First Aid training in Bosnia and Herzegovina according to the highest standards and to provide the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a specific expertise that could bring it a leading role in providing the First Aid training in the country when BiH starts complying to the First Aid standards of western European countries. Consequently, the National Society will benefit from the fees for attending the courses and obtaining the certificate, just as what is currently happening with the training for first aid certificates for drivers. The operational phase of the project started in May this year. In accordance with the developed plan of action the first activities will be advocacy meetings with the relevant authorities to raise awareness on use of AED as well as to promote adoption of relevant laws and regulations. The contacts with other experienced NS will be obtained in order to organize training of First Aid trainers in the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. .

Constraints or Challenges

Limited founding available for only small scope of activities.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

c) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

Build a strong National Red Cross Society: increase Red Cross capacity in addressing the most urgent situations of vulnerability and her capacity to be sustainable.

The organizational development/capacity building programme budget for 2011 is, CHF 98,200

Programme component 1: Leadership, governance and management

Component outcome 1: The National Society's governance members and management staff have improved their skills in chairing the Society.

Programme component 2: NS Structure optimisation

Component outcome 1: The National Society's structure is assessed and revised to optimize coordination, tasks and responsibilities division among its components.

Programme component 3: Systems and performance for programmes and services

Component outcome 1: The National Society has identified priority programs to be implemented at all levels of its structure, aligned her strategy to Strategy 2020 and is more effective in programme planning, reviewing, monitoring and reporting.

Programme component 4: Fundraising strategies and developing new funding

Sources

Component outcome 1: The National Society has expanded and diversified its funding-base and has improved its fund-raising capacity.

Achievements

The National Society experiences continuous improvement in skills of its management, governance staff and members. Capacity building and Organizational Development program significantly contributed to these improvements. The OD program is now considered the fundamental program underpinned in all other projects, task and activities of the National Society. Due to the program's importance it was necessary to seek external independent evaluation of the National Society in order to have clear and unbiased view of the structure. Supported by the ICRC funds a company was hired in January to perform the assessment of the National Society. The results, interpretations and recommendations were provided at the end of June 2011. On the positive note, the presented results substantially reconfirmed prior Organizational Development plans prepared by the National Society, providing recommendations for some activities to be integrated and a new push to the plan implementation.

During the months of April and May priority programmes were identified at the National planning. The National Society's strategy 2011-2015 was finalized. Great support in this work was provided by the 2020 strategy facilitator from the Netherlands Red Cross in May 2011.

A National Society's representative will attend the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) training taking place at the beginning of September in the Federation Europe Zone Office, Budapest. Further, an agreement to organise an additional PMER training in the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina during September 2011 is reached with the Europe Zone PMER office.

On legal and operational side, the National Society's statute was updated and sent to Joint Statutory Commission in Geneva for recommendations. Furthermore, the National Society had meetings with the Minister of Social Protection and Refugees in order to include regulations of emblem protection within the Red Cross law as part of the Society's intellectual property rights. The National Society also finalised agreements with the relevant Ministries to obtain financial support in terms of yearly grants for the implementation of its programs such as tracing and family reunion, international cooperation, first aid.

The Project Cooperation Agreement with UNDP BiH, as the Principal Recipient of the TB Program, has been extended until the end of September 2012 (please refer to the achievement section on page 6 of this report for further information).

It is noteworthy to mention that the plans with Europe Zone resource mobilisation coordinator for fundraising training in BiH this year are finalized. A project proposal in this regard is under preparation to secure the funds for the training.

The Federation has agreed for a joint meeting with the Management and Governance of the National Society and it is to be held in the Europe Zone Budapest office at the end of September. The primarily goal is to discuss mid-term plan for the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina which will help them prepare for the challenges occurring due to the uncertainty of the political and administrative setup of the country.

The National Society, in its joint efforts with the Federation and the ICRC continues its commitment in reaching the youth and introducing volunteers to the Red Cross environment. In this regard, it is noteworthy to mention its involvement in the international Kids Festival. The Kids Festival represents the biggest event for the children in the region. Since 2004, over 40.000 children attend the Festival yearly. The National Society participates in this event continuously since 2007. This year the RCBiH contributed with the following programs presentations: first aid, dissemination, tracing service and mine awareness. Besides the first aid presentations, a first aid service was also provided at the Festival. Dissemination activities were realized mostly through promotional materials, talks with children, workshops, sharing videos and stories. Furthermore, the simulation of a mine field was organized at the event. Each day of the festival, the instructors would teach children on the potential mine threats still active in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This year the Kids Festival took place from 10th to 14th of June

Constraints or Challenges

Delays in the formation of the new government significantly affect financial survival of the National Society as most of its operational costs are covered by the yearly renewable government grants. With a current political deadlock there are no realistic expectations that the funds will be received before the beginning of 2012. In addition to the political situation the country, the financial resources are scarce and contributions from international donors have been steadily decreasing. As a result the major challenge for the RCS BiH is to find resources needed for its existence and performance. The need for diversified financial resources is eminent as well as evading direct funding from the unstable government.

Working in partnership

The Red Cross Society in Bosnia and Herzegovina works in partnership with the International Federation. The Federation's office is well integrated within the RCSBiH HQS, and as such is able to efficiently provide technical support and guidance to the National Society. The IFRC's office in Bosnia and Herzegovina is primarily supported by the Italian Red Cross (ITRC). The ITRC also supports National Society's key project i.e. Organizational Development, as well as activities targeting Roma minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Together with the Federation, the ITRC is a strong supported of humanitarian diplomacy and multilateral projects such as Home Care and First Aid.

The Red Cross Society works in partnership with several other Participating National Societies in their bilateral activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

- International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) has its office in the country and is providing financial and technical support to the National Society. The ICRC support mainly focuses its support to Humanitarian diplomacy, tracing services and Organizational Development,
- Austrian Red Cross is supporting training in Disaster Management for the National Society,
- Spanish Red Cross supported emergency operations through the replenishment of DREF and it continues to support Humanitarian diplomacy and youth activities,
- Swiss Red Cross provides bilateral support to Home Care programme and it has supported National Society in responding to the natural disasters,
- German Red Cross, also bilaterally supports Home Care program
- Norwegian Red Cross provides bilateral support to Disaster Management and youth activities.

Besides the Red Cross donors, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and DFID contribute to the funding of Health and Care program. The UNDP financial assistance for the Tuberculosis programme has enabled the National Society to excel in this programme for the last three years. Moreover, the Home Care programme is implemented through several partnerships at local level including local authorities, centres for social welfare and private donors.

As a result of the complex administrative structure present in the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina the National Society collaborates with the state government and governments operating in the two entities.

The National Society's partner at the national level is the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees. The Red Cross heavily depends on this Ministry in receiving its annual support for the programmes such as tracing service, family reunion and international cooperation.

Contributing to longer-term impact

All projects and activities implemented by the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina are aligned with the International Federation Global Agenda and its emphasis on preventing and reducing deaths, injuries and illnesses as well as building local communities capacities to combat their own vulnerabilities. Further, programmes' components are aligned with the local and regional incentives such as The Decade of Roma Inclusion and the Poverty Reduction Strategies. In addition, all programmes have a clear gender focus. The National Society works to ensure gender equality, access, participation and mainstreaming in all its work with vulnerable population in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A special emphasis is put within the psychological component of disaster preparedness and health promotion.

Capacity, competence and organizational building is a key elements in all project activities carried out by the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina as it encourages knowledge, skills and experience development. Building on the key elements has in return helped the Society to provide opportunities for people to carry out social initiatives and advocacy for their rights and needs in their communities.

All programmes have integrated and implemented monitoring and evaluation mechanism at national level. Nevertheless, the National Society strives to improve its monitoring and evaluation capacities and apply lessons learned through the experiences of the entire Red Cross structure.

Looking ahead

The National Society aspires to become an effective organisation at national level, providing support to people in need, an organization that represents an added value to the country still fighting to abandon its administrative and political divisions in favour of a more united government. Ongoing political crisis has put the current administrative setup of the country once again under discussion. It has become more apparent that these unstable political cycles significantly affect the National Society's operations primarily in terms of funding. Therefore, the National Society has decided to plan its restructuring within limited time periods i.e. middle term periods only, aiming for a more efficient and independent structure that will be able to continue its assistance to the people in need, regardless of political developments in the country.

The National Society will continue to gradually move away from exclusively being a provider of humanitarian assistance towards being an advocate for the vulnerable, through its role as a partner and driving force behind processes of civil society building at both national and local levels.

Volunteering and involvement of youth, perhaps not the most evident factor in organizational development, performance and capacity building, but certainly significant contributor to the programmes is reaching a maximum level of importance to the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. There is a growing understanding that the developing volunteering is the main way to fulfilling the organization's mission.

Disaster management remains a priority for the country and consequently for the National Society that will continue to work to improve her effectiveness in this area.

The National Society is also increasing its attention to the long term consequences of the worldwide economic crisis and the possible future repercussions for the most vulnerable in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

How we work	
<p><i>All Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</i></p>	
<p>The IFRC's vision is to:</p> <p>Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.</p>	<p>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises. 2. Enable healthy and safe living. 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
Contact information	
<p>For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Dušan Kulušić, Secretary General; email: secretary.general@rcsbh.org; phone: +387 33 263 936, fax: +387 33 263 936 • In the Federation office in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Michele Rezza Sanchez, Federation Country Representative, email: michele.rezzasanchez@ifrc.org; phone: +387 33 263 945; fax: +387 33 263 945 • In the Europe Zone Office: Elias Ghanem, Head of Support Services, Budapest; email: elias.ghanem@ifrc.org; phone: +361 888 4518, fax: +361 336 1516 	