

# Revised Plan 2011



## Bosnia and Herzegovina



### Executive summary

First Aid demonstration at Kids Festival in Sarajevo  
**Photo:** Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Since the war ended in 1995 Bosnia and Herzegovina has moved towards peace and reconciliation. Efforts are ongoing to establish a new national constitution which would form the basis for increased cohesion and countrywide cooperation. Although the country has experienced positive developments and economical growth in recent years, political, economic as well as social challenges remain to be resolved. The country has an exceptionally high unemployment rate, poverty is widespread and among the population several groups face hardship and vulnerabilities. These are poor families with children, pensioners and elderly people, disabled people, internally displaced persons and minorities, people at risk of being trafficked to mention some. In addition to political and socio-economical issues, various natural and man-made disasters hit the country almost every year. The level of poverty and already existing vulnerabilities in the country increases the risk to, and the potential destructive effects of, these phenomena for the most vulnerable.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the only humanitarian actor covering the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The National Society is currently working within the areas of disaster management, health and care, organizational development and fundamental principles and humanitarian values. Thus the work of the society is aligned with the strategy 2020. Within disaster management focus is on national response disaster teams (NDRTs) as well as community management disaster capacity. Health and care activities within the society cover HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and harm reduction. A main activity is, however, home care services to vulnerable elderly people. Voluntary non-remunerated blood donation and first aid are additional activities carried out by the National Society. The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently aiming to enhance its management structure. Following these efforts the National Society seeks to establish a more functional and simple structure, allowing the coexistence of the existing Entities RC diversities and exigencies within one only structure at national level to improve coordination and sustainability. The promotion of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values are integrated elements of all activities as well as the profiling of the National Society. The National Society is currently exploring the need for and the National Society's capacity to address new vulnerable groups such as victims of human trafficking. The International Federation's representative office in Bosnia and Herzegovina will support the National Society's programmes covering disaster management, health and care, organizational development and Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values during 2010 and

2011. The National Society's programmes will undergo to review and updated planning to better adhere to the strategy 2020.

All programmes supported by the International Federation office in Sarajevo are based on the strategic priorities and plans of the National Society. The 2010-2011 Plan reflects the work of the society towards scaling up programme activities with emphasis on the health and social care and Disaster management. The support is characterised by technical advice on all aspects of programme planning and management, training, information sharing, advocacy and active promotion of programmes in conjunction with regional and cross regional networks as indicated in the *Federation Secretariat Support Strategy for Central Europe 2006 – 2009*. At its General Assembly in 2009, the International Federation adopted Strategy 2020 to guide its work and that of National Societies both domestically and globally. Focussing on “saving lives and changing minds”, S2020 and calls on national societies, as effective auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, to provide high quality services within the core mandates of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to influence behaviours, promote changes in attitudes and mindsets, and for the Red Cross and Red Crescent to play a lead role in advocating for meeting the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people and communities.”

The total 2010-2011 budget is CHF 0.5 Million, of which CHF 0.5 Million for 2011.

[Click here to go directly to the summary budget of the plan.](#)

## Country context

Bosnia and Herzegovina is located in the Southeastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea and Croatia, at 44 00 N, 18 00 E, covering the area of 51,197 sq km out of 51,187 sq km is land and 10 sq km water area.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's declaration of sovereignty in October 1991 was followed by a declaration of independence from the former Yugoslavia on 3 March 1992. On 21 November 1995, in Dayton, Ohio, the warring parties initialled a peace agreement that brought to a halt three years of interethnic civil strife (the final agreement was signed in Paris on 14 December 1995). The Dayton Peace Accords retained Bosnia and Herzegovina's international boundaries and created a multi-ethnic and democratic government charged with conducting foreign, diplomatic, and fiscal policy. Within Bosnia and Herzegovina's recognized borders, the country is divided into a joint Bosniak/Croat Federation (about 51% of the territory) and the Bosnian Serb-led Republika Srpska or RS (about 49% of the territory); and 1 internationally supervised district - Brcko district (Brcko Distrikt)- it is in north-eastern Bosnia and is a self-governing administrative unit under the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina and formally held in condominium between the two entities; the District remains under international supervision. The Federation and RS governments were charged with overseeing most government functions.

The three members of the presidency (one Bosniak, one Croat, one Serb) elected by popular vote for a four-year term (eligible for a second term, but then ineligible for four years); the chairmanship rotates every eight months and resumes where it left off following each general election; election last held on 1 October 2006 (next to be held in October 2010); the chairman of the Council of Ministers appointed by the presidency and confirmed by the state-level House of Representatives.

The interethnic warfare in Bosnia and Herzegovina caused production to plummet by 80% from 1992 to 1995 and unemployment to soar. With an uneasy peace in place, output recovered in 1996-99 at high percentage rates from a low base; but output growth slowed in 2000-02. Part of the lag in output was made up in 2003-08 when GDP growth exceeded 5% per year. However, due in large part to the global economic crisis, GDP fell by about 3% in 2009, exports fell 24%, and unemployment - as officially reported - rose above 40%. Banking reform accelerated in 2001 as all the Communist-era payments bureaus were shut down; foreign banks, primarily from Austria and Italy, now control most of the banking sector. The konvertibilna marka (convertible mark or BAM)- the national currency introduced in 1998 - is pegged to the euro, and confidence in the currency and the banking sector has increased. Bosnia's private sector is growing and foreign investment is slowly increasing, but government

spending, at nearly 50% of adjusted GDP, remains high because of redundant government offices at the state, entity and municipal level. Privatization of state enterprises, however, has been slow, particularly in the Federation where political division between ethnically-based political parties makes agreement on economic policy more difficult. A sizeable current account deficit and high unemployment rate remain the two most serious macroeconomic problems. Successful implementation of a value-added tax in 2006 provided a predictable source of revenue for the government and helped rein in gray market activity. National-level statistics have also improved over time but a large share of economic activity remains unofficial and unrecorded. Bosnia and Herzegovina became a full member of the Central European Free Trade Agreement in September 2007. In 2009, Bosnia's economy was hurt by the global financial downturn, with GDP, exports, and employment all showing declines. One of Bosnia's main challenges has been to cut public sector wages and social benefits to meet the IMF's budget deficit criteria and qualify for additional tranches of Fund aid

Among the poor there are many deprived families and thus many children are exposed to vulnerabilities of different kinds. Hence, along with a significant number of orphans, families with children are in need of both materials, social and educational support. There are approximately 415,000 registered pensioners and disabled persons. The public pension is set at 50 per cent of the average net wage, which is below the official threshold of relative poverty, thus making elderly people some of the most vulnerable in the country. In addition to pensioners and disabled persons, a considerable number of traditional social welfare beneficiaries receive small state allowances, inadequate to sustain an adequate standard of living and thus placing them in a vulnerable situation. A high number of people are still displaced. UNHCR reports that some 217,000 persons are of concern to the organization out of which 130,000 are internally displaced persons (IDPs) and almost 5,000 returned IDPs<sup>4</sup>. Furthermore 17 national minorities are legally recognized in the country with Roma being the only numerically significant minority population. In the absence of a new census since 1991, estimates range from 30,000 to 100,000. Refugees and displaced persons along with minority groups are considered as some of the most vulnerable groups in the country and face discrimination and exclusion. Thus social integration of these groups is an essential issue to be addressed. Trafficking in persons has emerged as a potential risk to certain groups the recent years. Trafficking makes people, especially women, vulnerable to exploitation and suffering and thus both its causes and human consequences need to be adequately addressed.

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

### Population, geography and environment Economy and labour

Total population (millions) 3.93  
 GDP per capita (PPP in USD) 6,780  
 Surface area (square km) 51,197  
 GDP real growth (%) 6  
 Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (metric tons) 4.0 (2004)  
 Unemployment total (% of labour force) 44 (2003)

### Social indicators Health indicators

Adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and older) 96.7 (2005)  
 Infant mortality rate (per 100,000) 13 (2004)  
 Human development index value (HDI) 0.803 (2005)  
 Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000) 3 (2005)  
 Human development index rank (HDI) 66  
 Life expectancy at birth 74.5 (2005)  
 Population below national poverty line (%) 19.5  
 HIV incidence (% aged 15-49) 0.43  
 People living with HIV/AIDS aged 15-49 900 (2003)  
 Number of internally displaced people (1000) 180 (2006)  
 Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000) 45.45  
 (Sources: World Health Organization; UNDP; World Bank)

In addition to political and socio-economical issues, natural phenomena as flooding, drought, heavy snow falls, and landslides hit Bosnia and Herzegovina almost every year, causing a variety of humanitarian challenges.

Top 10 Natural Disasters in Bosnia-Herzegovina for the period 1990 to 2010 sorted by numbers of total affected people:

Disaster	Date	No Total Affected
Flood	6-Apr-2004	275,000
Drought	May-2003	62,575
Flood	20-Jun-2010	14,910
Extreme temperature	Jan-2009	10,000
Flood	Jun-2001	9,000
Flood	6-Dec-2005	3,100
Flood	23-Mar-2004	3,000
Flood	1-Feb-2009	2,630
Flood	7-Jul-2009	1,100
Storm	16-Dec-1999	1,090

Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database

In recent years the country has experienced heat waves leading to deaths and health threats, forest fires and water shortage. Global warming and climate change indicates that the incidence of these phenomena will not decrease in the near future, but rather intensify. Furthermore there is increasing public awareness of risks such as industrial accidents, increase in road accidents and increased population movements. The level of poverty and the existing vulnerabilities in the country increase the potential destructive effects of natural and man-made disasters for the most vulnerable.

## National Society priorities and current work with partners

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH) was recognized by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in December 2000 and by the International Red Cross Committee (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 2001. The mission statement in its 2006-2010 strategy highlights respect of human dignity, alleviation of human suffering and reduction of the impact of crises. In pursuing its mission the National Society implements multiple and comprehensive programmes targeting selected groups and vulnerabilities in line with the country's socio-economic realities. The National Society with its 18,000 volunteers is the only humanitarian organization covering the whole country. International observers have described the establishment of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina as one of the most important steps towards the country's reconciliation process. Since the last year the National Society priorities are represented by strengthening her operative capacities and structure in order to improve partnerships with the State Government and with external donors. In terms of programs, the priorities are:

Principles and values, through support to vulnerable minorities, Health and Care, through the home care, the anti tuberculosis and the first aid programs.

Also priorities are represented by the Disaster Management and the "traditional programs" that continue to be of high importance for the National Society, like the mine awareness and the tracing program.

A deep reorganisation plan was prepared by the NS and its implementation is starting in the second half of 2010. Within the reorganisation plan activities the National Society strategy will be revised with special care to its alignment to the strategy 2020.

At present the International Committee and the International Federation, together with the Arab Emirate Red Crescent, the Italian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross are working in the country with the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Outside the movement the Red Cross BiH is cooperating mainly with UNDP, with UNHCR, with the International Organization for Migration IOM and with the World Health Organization WHO on HIV and AIDS.

## Disaster management

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a disaster prone country and developing an efficient structure for disaster management is a priority for the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Objectives of the National Society are to maximize the coordination with other actors, like the civil protection, both at national and local levels, and to improve internal coordination and efficiency in collecting information and making assessments.

NS plans aim to establish a national disaster response team (NDRT) consisting of members from the cantonal and regional level who would be trained and equipped to take a lead when disaster strikes. Furthermore an aim is to define and implement clear and effective procedures for information collection at field level and rapid transmission throughout the structure. Measures and procedures for assuring good RC coordination with other actors have to be developed too.

When it comes to disaster preparedness, activities focus on risk reduction at municipal level, thus stressing the need to develop community-based projects aimed at reducing vulnerability to disasters in selected communities. In order to guide the National Society's work within disaster management and its implementation of relevant activities, there is a need to conduct a new nationwide vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA). The new VCA will serve as the basis for the development of an overall Red Cross disaster management plan, including focus on both disaster preparedness and response.

## Health and care

The aim of the National Society's efforts within HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and harm reduction is to influence young people's behaviour to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and diseases. In addition the issues of unplanned pregnancy and gender violence will be addressed. Peer education is a main activity. A national strategy on reproductive health for youth was developed in 2005 and by the end of 2007, 7,000 young people had been reached. Moreover, the National Society intends to scale up its activities on HIV and AIDS in accordance with the International Federation operational models like the Global Alliance on HIV. The National Society is cooperating with public health authorities.

The National Society focuses on informing the public about TB. The occurrence of TB and its adverse effects are related to current social conditions and lack of information and appropriate treatment. The Red Cross focuses its support on the "Week of Fight against Tuberculosis" held each year in September. Further Red Cross activities include free of charge medical checkups for people in remote areas conducted by external doctors on a voluntary basis, visits to patients with TB in hospitals and at home, and donations of food and hygiene parcels.

The home care programme provided high quality home care services to 10,000 beneficiaries last year with an average of more than 50,000 visits and 2,500 medical referrals each month. The services vary according to perceived needs and include visits and personal care from once a month to several times a week, as well as food parcels and hygiene parcels. In order to ensure programme sustainability a vision document has been developed. Together with the results of an external evaluation conducted in 2006, this document provided directions for the programme. As well as providing services to vulnerable elderly people, the home care programme has become an effective vehicle for reconciliation and cooperation between the country's two entities. Home care coordinators from all the two entities meet

on a regularly basis for discussion, exchange of ideas, joint planning and coordination, contributing to a cooperative culture within the National Society. The public authorities recognize the importance and quality of the programme and acknowledge that the Red Cross is filling a current health gap. Further emphasis will be put on volunteer development and increased management capacity building. As the standard of living for vulnerable elderly persons is not likely to improve in the foreseeable future, the continuation of the programme is vital. Although external support to the programme has decreased over the past five years, the National Society is determined to continue with it. Voluntary non-remunerated blood donation is a traditional programme within the National Society. It aims to ensure the availability of sufficient amounts of safe blood for relevant governmental health institutions. The Red Cross organizes blood donation actions through its organizational network in 20 regional and 153 municipal branches, through activists and volunteers, and in cooperation with blood transfusion institutions. Local Red Cross branches have collected approximately 36,000 blood units per year, but the number has been decreasing due to lack of programme funding.

The National Society's first aid activities are focused on training of drivers, which is an important contribution to road safety, and also a source of income. The National Society is currently planning to become the first organisation in BiH to be able to provide first aid training according to the European First Aid Certificate in order to be allowed by the government to be the exclusive provider for this kind of training when Bosnia and Herzegovina will have to comply with the European norms. Other European National Societies, possessing already the relevant knowledge, could play an important role in supporting the RC in Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop the required skills.

## Organizational development and capacity building

In the years after the war, the International Federation's office in Sarajevo has supported the operational capacity of the National Society's headquarters also financially. The support has helped the society maintain and develop their operational capacity in the absence of alternative income sources. However, the financial support is being scaled down, presence of international donors has decreased significantly in the last years and the National Society need to improve her capacity to be competitive in programme implementation in order to be included in National and municipal budgets.

New developments that took place after the summer of 2009, when the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina has implemented its new statute electing one President and selecting one secretary general, opened the door to the possibility of a deep reorganisation of the NS.

In fact this important achievement was the needed basis for an effective reorganization of the NS structure and, since the autumn of 2009, a plan for the reorganisation of the NS, aiming to approach all the main problems in a systematic and coordinated manner, has been under development. Federation office in BiH, also in accordance with the strategy 2020, has been the promoter of the plan and actively worked for its development and sharing with all other actors of the movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly ICRC. The plan puts together, within the same framework, the solutions to statutory issues with those required to improve the management of programmes and to increase the self sustainability of the National society.

## Principles and values

Programme activities within the programme started in April 2001 as a response to the increasing number of displaced persons and returnees to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since then the "returnee issue" has decreased of importance and consequently the project for their support has been gradually reduced. Presently the National Society is revising her strategy for the next future prioritizing programs in alignment with the strategy 2020.

The National Society is currently intentioned to support vulnerable groups of the population, continuing her activities in favour of the Roma people, with projects to improve their living conditions and to facilitate their acceptance and inclusion in the society. Integrating new projects into ongoing programme activities will be emphasized, i.e. as a cross cutting element between health and care and humanitarian

values. Participatory community development will be one of the tools to develop participation within the beneficiary communities. Furthermore the programme will position the National Society vis-à-vis the government, addressing legal issues, regional networking, supporting volunteers, information-networks. In 2007, pilot projects funded targeted Roma people exposed to discrimination and extreme poverty, and groups of youth at risk of human trafficking.

## Other programmes

In cooperation with ICRC the National Society keeps on carrying out the tracing services and the mine awareness programmes. Due to the situation in the country the mine awareness program plays an important role for the safety of the population. In fact as of 2009, there are still an estimated 13,000 minefields and an estimated 222,000 active land mines throughout the country. The area of suspected landmine contamination is estimated at over 1482 square kilometres, more than 2.9% of the country's territory.

## Secretariat supported programmes in 2010-2011

### Disaster Management

#### a) The purpose and components of the programme

<b>Programme purpose</b>
Save lives, protect livelihoods and strengthen recovery from disasters and crisis.

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

<b>Programme component 1: National disaster response</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> A National disaster response team (NDRT) consisting of members from the cantonal and regional level is established
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> Cantonal and regional disaster response teams have received refresher training and equipment has been updated.
<b>Component outcome 3:</b> 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.

<b>Programme component 2: Risk Reduction in municipalities</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Target communities' vulnerability to disasters has been reduced through community-based projects.

<b>Programme component 3: Disaster plans</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The National Society has updated its vulnerability and capacity assessment and developed good coordination plans with the civil protection at national and local levels.

#### b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The disaster management programme and its components target different groups of beneficiaries: peer education targets 3,000 school children; the disaster preparedness activities target populations in disaster prone areas estimated at 20,000 persons; 3 disaster management coordinators, 100 staff and volunteers. All target groups will benefit from training, advice, consultancy and peer support.

### c) Potential risks and challenges

The disaster management programme has been enhanced in recent years and is now partly well functioning. However, still there are several issues to be addressed including: the need to hire a central disaster management coordinator; improve the financial basis of the programme and its sustainability; purchase of new and replace old equipment; and refresher training for disaster teams as well as practical simulations. The complexity of the RC structure and independence of the Entity endanger possibility to perform rapid and effective assessments at national level and to speed up information flow to the top of the structure. Procedures able to bypass this complexity have to be developed.

## Health and Care

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

<b>Programme purpose</b>
Enable healthy and safe living.

The health and care programme budget is for 2011 CHF 9,053

<b>Programme component 1: Prevention and control of HIV and AIDS and TB</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The number of exposed people seeking HIV counselling or treatment or both has increased.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> 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

<b>Programme component 2: Home care</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> 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.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> The National society provides quality Home Care services while ensuring long term sustainability in cooperation with authorities.

<b>Programme component 3: General health and voluntary blood donation</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> A unified voluntary non-remunerated blood donor database is established within the National Society.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> The National Society develops capacities to provide first aid courses according to the European first aid certificate.

### b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The HIV and AIDS activities have young people as main target group. Activities within TB targets poor people, primarily in the countryside. The home care programme targets 10,000 elderly people who have no, or very limited income and living alone without support other than services from Red Cross Volunteers. In terms of learning, beneficiaries will be: 3,000 school children; 3 health care coordinators; 200 staff and volunteers.

### c) Potential risks and challenges

The political and economic circumstances represent considerable challenges for the National Society to continue the much needed home care programme. The National Society needs to do much lobbying on all levels for improved social legislation to secure the sustainability of the programme and for the government to take over responsibility in the long-term.

## Organizational Development/Capacity Building

### a) 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 organisational development/capacity building programme budget is for 2011 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.

### b) Profile of target beneficiaries

Target beneficiaries within the organizational development programme are: 100 National Society leadership members and programme managers; and 320 local Red Cross branch staff. These will benefit from advice, consultancy, and training and peer support, to enhance their knowledge, experience and skills to better address organizational issues. All 18,000 volunteers will benefit from a better functioning society.

### c) Potential risks and challenges

The National Society is already one step ahead of the Government, having abandoned the "three President system", but the development of a stronger National Society with a more effective and economical structure will require a change of habits and mindsets.

Strong cooperation will be demanded to all the structure components to find solutions that will allow combining the existence of the two entity RC with the need of a slim and self sustainable RC structure at national level.

## Principles and Values

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

<b>Programme purpose</b>
Promote social inclusion and a culture of non violence and peace

The principles and values programme budget is for 2011 CHF 45,097

<b>Programme component 1: Information network and training for Roma population in Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The National Society takes active role in supporting the Roma population in need.
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> Target beneficiaries have received training and have increased their ability to become self-sustainable.

### b) Profile of target beneficiaries

Approximately 8,000 people including vulnerable local community members, elderly people and children in rural areas, will benefit from training, educational and social activities, dissemination of information and referrals. Targeted groups will also participate in development of some project proposals with the use of participatory methodology.

### c) Potential risks and challenges

The definition of the National Society's role in supporting minority and disadvantaged groups depends on the government's capacity and efforts. Effective cooperation within the National Society structure is required.

## Role of the secretariat

### a) Technical programme support

In line with Strategy 2020 and other policy decisions of made by statutory meetings and bodies<sup>1</sup> as well as reviews undertaken by Europe Zone Office of its approach to provision of support to national societies, the Federation will provide core membership services and technical support to national societies. The Federation will provide support to the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina to roll out Strategy 2020 and integrate it into its strategic development plan. It will also contribute to the development and data input for the Federation-wide planning and reporting system. The International Federation's country representation in Sarajevo is operative through an agreement with the Italian Red Cross, which is supporting the costs of the office and providing the staff. The office counts in total three staff members: one IFRC Country Representative, one Office Assistant and one Driver Logistician; the local staff is contracted by the National Society and paid by the Italian Red Cross. The zone office Europe in Budapest, in coordination with the country office, is offering active technical specialist support when needed in health, organizational development and disaster management. Subject to the National Society's interaction with the government, the zone might be required to render support on International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL)

### b) Partnership development and coordination

The International Federation and the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina each year sign a memorandum of understanding which defines the framework for cooperation between the two. Active Federation support is being offered to the National Society on partnership development. The

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<sup>1</sup> The International Federation's General Assembly, the Governing Board committees, the Council of Delegates, the International Conference and the European Red Cross and Red Cross Conference."

International Federation expects to conduct a partnership meeting with the National Society in the near future. The possible development of a Country Agreement Strategy (CAS) will be among the subjects in such a meeting. Furthermore, regular meetings with the National Society's Red Cross partners will be initiated during the planning period and development of partnerships further explored and supported. The outcome of these endeavours is, however, to some extent dependent on improvement of the society's capacity through the organisational development plan. Programme integration and coordination are essential elements of the International Federation's support to enhance and benefit from cross-cutting activities and gains. The National Society's home care programme may be utilized as a model in this respect. In accordance with Federation support and its own priorities, the National Society seeks to work with the national authorities, other organizations and civil society as well as Movement partners such as sister National Societies and ICRC to the extent possible. National authorities are the main partner in disaster preparedness at national level. The National Society has achieved a clear role in disaster response and will support the government in developing a national disaster preparedness and response plan. Key partners in health and care are the Ministry of Health, national blood transfusion centres, HIV/AIDS and TB institutes, as well as the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). These partnerships are enabling the National Society to contribute to the national poverty reduction strategy which feeds into the Millennium Development Goals. Within the Movement the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina cooperates with several sister National Societies in addition to the International Federation and ICRC. The Italian Red Cross has provided financial support through the International Federation for food, seed and hygiene parcels for the home care programme since 2006. It also supports the Organisational Development plan and recently the principle and values programme.

The Spanish Red Cross carried out bilateral training of trainers and organised workshops for school children on prevention of drug abuse, STIs and family violence. The Spanish Red Cross has also organized a project workshop on planning and management of international cooperation projects for National Society staff members and volunteers.

The Swiss Red Cross supports a bilateral long-term community development programme, including improving living conditions for elderly people in the Mihatovici refugee settlement in Tuzla Canton. Furthermore it supports a countrywide variety of Red Cross branch seed projects and courses for auxiliary nurses with a total number of beneficiaries of 1,500 in 2007.

The Red Crescent Society of United Arab Emirates assists the National Society implementing a health care project targeting orphans.

ICRC is supporting and works closely with the International Federation and the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina to build capacity in the following areas:

- Tracing service and psycho-social support to the family members of the missing
- Promotion, respect and dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the Movement's Fundamental Principles, including support to the entity Red Cross magazines
- Conflict preparedness
- Mine awareness
- Enhancement of the National Society's legal base.

Outside the Movement the National Society works closely and intends to continue cooperation with several international organizations such as:

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) within the TB component of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria
- The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) on projects for refugees, including education for children
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) on population movement
- The World Health Organization (WHO) on HIV and AIDS
- The National Society is working on the revision of the Red Cross law and on the protection of the Red Cross emblem. The International Federation will continue supporting the NS in this regard through the office in BiH and the Europe Zone office

## Promoting gender equity and diversity

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is making efforts to ensure that men and women equally benefit from the programmes in line with their specific needs. The gender issue is always considered while working with vulnerable communities. The participatory community development (PCD) methodology suggests equal participation of men and women. However, in practice, women and men participate differently in different communities, varying from 90 to 100 per cent women participation to communities where only men participate. There is a variety of cultural factors behind this difference. However, with the PCD methodology tools are applied to approach all groups and assure that all are treated equally. To further address the problem, Red Cross staff and volunteers will be trained (in cooperation with UNHCR) in the field of public health, psychosocial assistance and basic legal issues, including the needs and rights of women.

## Quality, accountability and learning

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina has benefited from support from Macedonian Red Cross in organizing PCD trainings, from Serbian Red Cross in facilitating disaster management trainings and also from Norwegian Red Cross in organizing fund-raising trainings. Practice of knowledge sharing is further developed in the plan for 2010 and 2011 where workshops and seminars are planned for the participation of National Societies in the area. In particular in the ambit of the Home Care regional workshops will be organized for sharing the progress reached by the different national societies, including the Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the Balkan region. The Organisational development plan foresees program reviews to be performed for all the programs identified as priority by the National Society for 2010 – 2011, and new planning will be performed accordingly.

### How we work

The IFRC's vision is to:

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.

The IFRC's work is guided by **Strategy 2020** which puts forward three strategic aims:

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

For further information specifically related to this plan, please contact:

- **In the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Dusan Kulusic, Secretary General of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina; phone +387 33 664369; and fax +387 33 664371; email [secretary.general@rcsbh.org](mailto:secretary.general@rcsbh.org)
- **In the Federation Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Michele Rezza Sanchez, Country Representative, email: [michele.rezzasanchez@ifrc.org](mailto:michele.rezzasanchez@ifrc.org); phone: +387 33 664369; fax: +387 33 664371
- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Elias Ghanem, Head of Support Services, Budapest, phone: +361 888 4518; fax: +361 336 1516; email: [elias.ghanem@ifrc.org](mailto:elias.ghanem@ifrc.org)