

Plan 2009-2010



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Executive summary



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 Global Agenda Goals. Within disaster management focus is on national response disaster teams (NDRTs) as well as community management disaster capacity. Mobile technical teams will ensure emergency support to minority returnees and other vulnerable people.

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 change and enhance its governance and management structure. The intention is to establish systems based on one elected president and one secretary general for four years. Following these efforts the National Society seeks to establish a qualification-based recruitment system, as well as undertake management and development training for staff and volunteers to raise their skills.

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 2009 and 2010. The National Society's programmes have been reviewed and adapted to the International Federation's Global Agenda Goals,

Federation of the Future Framework for Action and to the resolutions of the VII European Regional Conference of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of June 2007 (the Istanbul Commitments). All programmes supported by the International Federation office in Sarajevo are based on the strategic priorities and plans of the National Society. The 2009-2010 plan reflects the work of the society towards scaling up programme activities with emphasis on the health and social care including working within the Global Alliance on HIV. 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*.

The total 2009-2010 budget is CHF 2,064,631 (USD 1,887,232 or EUR 1,315,052).

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

Country context

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has a population of 3.93 million¹ and covers an area of 51,209 square kilometres². In 1992 the country declared its independence from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The ensuing war caused extensive destruction and created sharp divisions between the country's populations. The real gross domestic product (GDP) plummeted by 80 per cent and more than two million people - nearly half the pre-war population - became refugees, either abroad or internally. The war ended with the Dayton Agreement in 1995 which decentralized the country politically into two governing entities; the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska, covering 51 and 49 per cent of the land area respectively, with Brčko District (BS) as a de facto third entity.

Steps have been taken towards peace and reconciliation. There are ongoing efforts to establish a new national constitution which would form the basis for increased cohesion and countrywide cooperation. Thus efforts are in progress to replace the rotating presidential system of the country with a system based on one elected president and two vice presidents for four years. This endeavour is, however, progressing slowly as divisions still persist. Steps have also been taken to bring the country closer to Europe politically, economically and in terms of security. In June Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a stabilization and association agreement with the European Union (EU). Along with its work towards EU membership, the country also intends to join the World Trade Organization (WTO), and acquire membership in NATO's Partnership for Peace programme.

Following the Dayton Peace Agreement and preparing for the post-war period, in 1996 a major donor assistance programme set the stage reconstruction and economic recovery, with donor commitments estimated at USD 5.4 billion. Until today the country has received much international attention and extensive financial, material, technical and humanitarian support from a wide range of actors worldwide. Economically Bosnia and Herzegovina is today a lower middle-income country. In 2006 the official gross national income (GNI) per capita was USD 6,780 (PPP) compared to 4,760 in 2000³. During the same period the country experienced an annual GDP growth rate of approximately five per cent. Furthermore, it has experienced good progress in reconstruction, social integration and state building in recent years.

Extensive international assistance has ensured peace and contributed to social stability along with economic growth. However, there are still immense challenges that need to be addressed as the country is characterized by widespread poverty. The unemployment rate is about 44 per cent and highest among young people, displaced persons and demobilized soldiers. However, grey economy may reduce actual unemployment between 25 to 30 per cent. Hence unemployed people constitute one of the most vulnerable groups in the country in terms of resources and to some extent when it comes to social integration. In connection to the labour market many well educated young people emigrated during the war years, causing an unfortunate brain drain and lack of competence.

¹ World Bank. www.worldbank.org.

² World CIA Factbook (July 2008 est.). www.cia.gov

³ World Bank. www.worldbank.org.

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 material, 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 IDPs⁴. 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.

Development Indicators		BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	
<i>Population, geography and environment</i>		<i>Economy and labour</i>	
Total population (millions)	3.93	GDP per capita (PPP in USD)	6,780
Surface area (square km)	51,209	GDP real growth (%)	6
Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (metric tons)	4.0 (2004)	Unemployment total (% of labour force)	44 (2003)
<i>Social indicators</i>		<i>Health indicators</i>	
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
<i>Refugees and IDPs</i>		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.			

Table 1: Selected development indicators for Bosnia and Herzegovina

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.

⁴ UNHCR, Statistical Online Population Database. <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/45c063a82.html>

Country disasters		
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA		
Type of Disaster	Date	Affected people
Flood	6 April 2004	275,000
Drought	May 2003	62,575
Flood	June 2001	9,000
Flood	6 December 2005	3,100
Flood	23 March 2004	3,000
Storm	16 December 1999	1090
Mass movement	10 February 2000	403
Epidemic	29 August 2000	400

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

Table 2: Natural disasters in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1990 including dates and the number of people affected

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.

Disaster management

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina aims to implement multiple disaster management activities. The National Society intends 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 support the establishment of municipal entities responsible for local disaster management. Additional 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. A previously conducted VCA has been the basis of a nationwide community-based preparedness and response network. The network cooperates with national authorities in supporting disaster preparedness assessments, the development of programme policy, regulations, structures and resources. Furthermore the National Society intends to support the development of a public disaster management plan and to explore ways to coordinate state authorities' efforts within disaster management with the actions of the National Society.

Mobile technical teams will ensure emergency support to minority returnees and other vulnerable groups in selected priority areas. The targeted areas will, among others, be identified and selected on the basis of the number of returnees returning and the capacity of the Red Cross. Returnees and other vulnerable groups will benefit from practical problem solving, provision of relief items, psychological

support and small community mobilisation projects tailored to the needs of the community through participatory engagement in areas of return.

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. Furthermore the programme is interrelated with the mobile team component within the disaster management programme as well as the principles and values programme. In an opinion poll the populations in the country expressed high satisfaction with the programme. 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 provides future 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 cantons and regions 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 considering how this activity can be linked with required training of disaster management teams. The International Federation is ready to render support subject to the National Society's strategic decision.

Organizational development and capacity building

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue developing and implementing its new organizational structure during the coming years. Consequently this will benefit the National Society's programme capacity and funding opportunities during the planning period and beyond. Proper staff recruitment is currently difficult because of inter-entity concerns. However, the National Society intends to establish a qualification-based recruitment system, as well as undertake management and development training for staff and volunteers to raise their skills.

Organizational development represents a particular challenge to the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The National Society is structured similarly to the governance structure of the country. However, in 2006 new statutes were adopted and replaced the eight month rotating presidential government structure with a system based on one president and two vice presidents elected for four years. Within the management of the National Society there will be one secretary general. These changes are expected to take place in 2008 and will strengthen the society and possibly secure increased support from the authorities as the National Society is not yet self-sustainable and thus needs financial, organizational as well as technical assistance.

The International Federation's office in Sarajevo has supported the operational capacity of the National Society's headquarters 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.

Both entity Red Crosses have strategies for 2006-2010 which are in line with the national level strategy.

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. The promotion of the principles and values and increasing awareness are an integrated part 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 and in these efforts, integrating new projects into ongoing programme activities will be emphasized, i.e. as a cross cutting element between health and care and humanitarian values.

Furthermore the programme will position the National Society vis-à-vis the government, addressing legal issues, regional networking, supporting volunteers, information-networks in areas of return. The National Society will join the next round of sensitisation with the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees (PERCO). In 2007, pilot projects funded targeted Roma people exposed to discrimination and extreme poverty, and groups of youth at risk of human trafficking.

At present the National Society has limited communication capacity and is partly depending on financial support from the International Federation and ICRC. Thus the society will make use of Federation and ICRC information channels such as the Federation internal webpage, publications and others in promoting humanitarian issues, networking and sharing of knowledge.

Other programmes

In cooperation with ICRC the National Society carries out tracing services and mine awareness programmes.

Secretariat supported programmes in 2009-2010

Disaster Management

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose
Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

The disaster management programme budget is CHF 280,107 (USD 256,039 or EUR 178,412)

Programme component 1: National disaster response team
Component outcome 1: A Red Cross national disaster response team consisting of members from the existing cantonal and regional disaster response teams is created, trained, equipped and prepared to respond efficiently to disasters.

Component outcome 2: Cantonal and regional disaster response teams have received refresher training and equipment has been updated.

Programme component 2: Risk Reduction in municipalities

Component outcome 1: Target communities' vulnerability to disasters has been reduced through community-based projects and municipal disaster management bodies have been established.

Programme component 3: Disaster plans

Component outcome 1: The National Society has updated its vulnerability and capacity assessment and developed a disaster management plan, including preparedness and response.

Component outcome 2: The National Society has contributed to the development of a public national disaster management plan, including a regional cooperation framework and the preparation of a national disaster management body.

Programme component 4: Mobile technical teams

Component outcome 1: Returnees and other vulnerable groups benefit from practical problem solving, relief item provision, psychological support and small community mobilisation projects tailored to the needs of the communities through participatory engagement in local areas of return.

Component outcome 2: Four mobile social integration teams will have made 4,000 interventions for returnees in a community based manner.

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, 15 governmental staff. 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. It is likely that the disaster management capacity of the National Society will decrease if these elements are not addressed and dealt with in the coming years. Also, the National Society is dependent on directions from state authorities in order to be able to actively support the government's disaster management activities, especially in working towards programme components one and two.

Health and Care

a) The purpose and components of the programme

Programme purpose

Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies

The health and care programme budget is CHF 1,097,528 (USD 1,003,225 or EUR 699,062).

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.

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.

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: Voluntary blood donors are successfully recruited.

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; and 15 governmental staff.

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

Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

The organisational development/capacity building programme budget is CHF 555,615 (USD 507, 875 or EUR 353,895).

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: Human resource base and outreach

Component outcome 1: The National Society's human resource structure and policy has been improved and is appropriate.

Programme component 3: Systems and performance for programmes and services

Component outcome 1: The National Society has strengthened and is more effective in programme 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 development of a stronger National Society leadership with roles and responsibilities in line with the society’s statutes will require a change of habits and mindsets. The intention to change the system of recruitment on the basis of qualifications, thus abandoning the recruitment code based on balancing the representation of different ethnic groups, will be a difficult. Internal disagreements are expected. Furthermore recruitment and retention of volunteers have declined the recent years. To change this trend will be a challenge and will require resources and organizational attention.

Principles and Values

a) The purpose and components of the programme**Programme purpose**

Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion

The principles and values programme budget is CHF 131,382 (USD 120,093 or EUR 83,683).

Programme component 1: Information network and vocational training for asylum seekers from Bosnia and Herzegovina

Component outcome 1: The National Society’s role in accommodating asylum seekers is defined and recognized by the government and other stakeholders.

Component outcome 2: A referral information system, served by volunteers and mobile team workers in ten local Red Cross branches, is further developed.

Component outcome 3: Target beneficiaries have received vocational training and have increased their ability to become self-sustenance.

b) Profile of target beneficiaries

Approximately 8,000 people including minority returnees, vulnerable local community members, elderly people and children in rural areas, will benefit from vocational training, educational and social activities, dissemination of information and referrals. Targeted groups will also receive relief items such as potato seeds, hygiene parcels and food parcels.

c) Potential risks and challenges

The definition of the National Society’s role in accommodating asylum seekers depends on the government’s capacity and efforts. Effective cooperation within the National Society is required.

Role of the secretariat

a) Technical programme support

The International Federation's country representation in Sarajevo has two local permanent staff, rendering continuous support to all projects funded through the International Federation. Given the National Society's own capacity, the representation has also to some extent supported bilateral activities. Since the middle of 2008 the International Federation has engaged a home care delegate on a 50 per cent basis. In addition the country representative, who is also responsible for Serbia and Montenegro, pays visits regularly, offering support. The zone office Europe in Budapest in conjunction with the regional representation 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 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 statute implementation. 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 four of the mobile technical teams bilaterally.
- The Norwegian Red Cross supports programmes within disaster management, health and care and organizational development through the International Federation and has bilateral twinning projects with the National Society within disaster management, home care and organizational development. The latter also includes youth exchange, which through the "Friendship without Borders" project, fosters dialogue and peaceful interaction among youth in the region.
- The Spanish Red Cross carries out bilateral training of trainers and organises workshops for school children on prevention of drug abuse, STIs and family violence. It also provides free of charge dental check-ups for youth, reaching 2,891 beneficiaries in 2007, and medical check-ups for elderly people, reaching 2,211 beneficiaries in 2007. 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 Swedish Red Cross provides funding for disaster management, home care and organizational development. It is, however, likely to phase out its support through the International Federation at the end of 2008, but may continue on a limited scale bilaterally.
- The Swiss Red Cross support 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, with totally 3,500 beneficiaries in 2007.

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 Commissions 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

c) Representation and Advocacy

The country representative will continue to offer close cooperation with the National Society leadership on representation and advocacy issues. Subject to implementation of the statutes, this may to some extent imply cooperation with the BiH entities, although the preference of the International Federation is to direct its support to the headquarters.

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.

In the population movement programme the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been raising awareness of domestic violence among returnees. To further address the problem, Red Cross staff and volunteers will be trained (in cooperation with UNHCR) in the field of public health, psycho-social assistance and basic legal issues, including the needs and rights of women.

Quality, accountability and learning

The International Federation representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina regularly carries out monitoring activities through project visits, leadership meetings, and has initiated regional cooperation between National Societies for knowledge sharing and learning. In this regards 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. This practice will be further developed in the coming years. The country representation applies the regional approach of utilizing best practices in the region and the regional human resource roster mechanism.

Experiences from training sessions are incorporated into planning and programme design. The National Society's procedures for monitoring and evaluation are integrated in different programme components. This will be developed further through a regional organizational development programme in the coming two years. Existing log-frames will be revised subject to partnerships and project developments, to update and improve them as implementation tools.

How we work

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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

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