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Bosnia and Herzegovina Annual Report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAABA002
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**This report covers the
period 01 January 2012
to 31 December 2012.**

First Aid volunteers at the Kids Festival

Photo: RCSBiH



Overview

The Red Cross programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina are aligned with the aims of the IFRC's Strategy 2020 to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; enable healthy and safe living; and promote social inclusion and culture of non-violence and peace. The capacity-building efforts are specifically linked with Enabling Action One to build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Stagnation in country's economy coupled with the global financial crisis has severely and disproportionately affected the society of the country. Many of the middle class workers, pensioners, older people, single parent families and Roma are struggling to survive. Lack of opportunities, political instability and economic depression have caused large-scale emigration of skilled and educated individuals primarily youth, amplifying population depletion and aging process of the country's demographics.

This situation also influences the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH). In 2011 National Society's primary source of funding - government grant has not been transferred to the NS due to the country's political blockade adding additional strain on National Society's operational functioning in 2012 and deepening the RCSBiH's dependence on the support of other Red Cross partner organizations and donors. Despite the difficult economic situation the National Society found a way to stretch its capacities in order to cover the growing needs of the vulnerable population and by making the most out of its donor's support, branch and volunteer network, the RCSBiH was able to keep alive its major programs during the reporting period.

Due to the tense and limiting political situation, the IFRC country representation has been focusing on fostering cooperation between the three different constituent people present in the National Society, feeling that the cooperation, integration and celebration of differences is indeed possible. The IFRC country representation continues to maintain dialogue and coordination between the Movement partners, supporting RCSBiH projects/programs and facilitating tailored organizational development support to the RCSBiH with an aim to strengthen its governance and management,

resource mobilization and human resource management. Inclusion of the capacity building elements such as exchanges of experiences and trainings into the IFRC supported projects remains high priority and is underpinned in all areas of achievement as a means of enhancing National Society's service delivery in empowering the most vulnerable communities.

Programs:

In addition to the on-going disaster preparedness activities, the International Federation provided continuous support to the municipal level disaster response operation during the cold wave at the beginning of 2012. The Bosnia and Herzegovina National Society was supported in reaching a successful agreement with the Ministry of Security regarding the National Society's roles and responsibilities during international and national Disaster Management (DM) interventions.

Related to the European Union's (EU) 2012 campaign under the motto, "Active Aging and Solidarity between Generations", the National Society introduced an active aging component to the existing Home Care program. Furthermore, with the support of the IFRC, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RCSBiH) started the implementation of a project aiming to facilitate integration of the Roma national minority into the society.

In terms of Organizational Development, the RCSBiH applied in 2012 to participate in the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process. Applying and participating in the process is a testimony to the RCSBiH commitment to fully develop their Society into a modern and well-functioning National Society. Capacity building efforts remain a priority of the IFRC work. The focus in this reporting period was on building NS Resource Mobilization (RM) capacities through RM workshops and development and the adoption of the unified reporting system according to Federation standards.

Working in partnership

Operational Partners	Agreement
Austrian Red Cross	Bilateral
International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)	Multi - Bilateral
Italian Red Cross	Multi-bilateral
German Red Cross	Bilateral
Norwegian Red Cross	Bilateral
Spanish Red Cross	Multi -Bilateral
Swiss Red Cross	Multi-Bilateral
DFID	Multilateral

Progress towards outcomes

Business line 1: Raise humanitarian standards

Output: 1.3.1. Assist RCSBiH in becoming familiar with the OCAC process as well as taking part in the process

Output: 1.4.1 Red Talks awareness promoted among the RCSBiH and IFRC country office staff

Measurement			
Indicators	Baseline (BL)	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
1.3 a # Of meetings held to familiarize RCSBiH leadership with the OCAC process	N/A	3	3
1.3 b RCSBiH applied for OCAC	N/A	Application sent	Accomplished
1.3 c First phase of the OCAC finalised	N/A	No target set for 2012	
1.3 d Second phase of OCAC finalised	N/A	No target set for 2012	
1.4a #Introductory seminars to RedTalks organized with the IFRC support, and attended by over 50% of staff coming from the RCS BiH and IFRC county office	0	1	Accomplished
1.4b Document mapping learning needs and learning plan for RCSBiH HQ produced	0	No target set for 2012	
1.4 c # Red Talks with attendance over 3 people from RCS BiH and IFRC country office (live/online).	0	4	Not yet performed

Comments on progress towards outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2012, the IFRC's Country Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina held a series of meetings with the BiH National Society- RCS BiH Secretary General, entity secretaries and other key NS HQ's members- in order to discuss the implementation of the Long Term Planning Framework (LTPF). Activities planned under the LTPF were discussed and examined in detail. Moreover, the National Society's leadership was familiarized with the importance and benefits of participating in the Organisational Capacity Assessment & Certification (OCAC) process. The IFRC country representation supported RCSBiH application to take a part in the OCAC self-assessment exercise. For the National Society applying and participating in the process is a testimony of its commitment to fully develop their Society into a modern and well-functioning National Society. In addition, a focal person was nominated for the OCAC process from RCSBiH HQ. Despite the NS's high interest in taking part in the OCAC process, due to the political uncertainties within the county and upcoming elections in the National Society, it has been decided to postpone the OCAC workshop until after the elections scheduled for the last quarter of 2013. In the meantime, IFRC country representation continues facilitating tailored support to the National Society upon RCSBiH priority needs particularly focusing on strengthening governance and management, recourse mobilization, project implementation support and human resource development.

Business Line 2: Grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people

Output: 2.1.1 Full support provided to the NS in reaching the agreement with the Ministry of Security BiH on the role and tasks of the NS in Disaster Management

Output: 2.1.2 Support provided to the NS in creating DM standard operative procedures and implementing them at the country level

Output: 2.1.3 Support RCSBiH in creating functional Disaster Management database

Output: 2.2.1 Support the RCS BiH in becoming familiar with the Minimum Security Requirements; having a DM program coordinator at the national level trained on the Minimum Security Requirements

Output: 2.2.2 Inclusion of climate change and environmental issues in the RCSBiH strategy promoted.

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
2.1a Finalized and signed agreement with the Ministry of security together with all relevant documents precising the role of RCSBiH in DM	N/A	Agreement is signed and functional	Agreement signed
2.1b relevant documents signed within the RCSBiH structure	N/A	No target set for 2012	
2.1c # of workshops on implementation of SOP	0	No target set for 2012	
2.1d # of discussion meetings on SOP	0	1	No progress in this period However an assessment of disaster response capacities was conducted with the NS and representatives of entities.
2.1 e# of contingency plans developed	0	No target set for 2012	
2.1f # of workshops aiming to support RCS BiH in identifying the database characteristics	0	No target set for 2012	
2.1g SOP first draft	0	DONE	Not completed: Plan for intervention with main characteristics has been drafted. However, drafting SOP has become a part of the newly developed/approved project in RCSBiH DR programme starting in 2013
2.2a # of responsible persons from RCS BiH trained on Minimum Security Requirements (MSR)	0	No target set for 2012	
2.2b Activities related to climate change and environmental issues planned in the strategy or in the operational plan	N/A	No target set for 2012	

Comments on progress towards outcomes

- In February, due to the sudden onset of extreme cold weather and snow the IFRC supported the RCS BiH in mobilizing its own resources as well as successfully applying for DREF support to meet the needs of the affected population. Around 188,723 CHF was allocated to assist 11,000 beneficiaries in terms of blankets, briquettes, and food. In close and outgoing cooperation with the IFRC Country Office, support was provided to the RCSBiH in profiling their leadership role in managing disasters and crises, followed by the Ministry of Security recognition and appointing of the RCSBiH as organization through which all contributions of possible interested donors should be transmitted. In order to merit such honor the support to RCSBiH was focused enhance its capacity in delivering high level of transparency and observation of the existing rules and regulations for operations' response.
- With the support of the Europe Zone Acting Disaster Management Coordinator and the Zone Planning and Reporting Officer, the assessment of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina disaster management capacities was carried out along with the identification of the key areas requiring special attention in pursuit for a more efficient National Society Disaster Management program. The assessment formed a basis for drafting standard operational procedures and contingency plans. The disaster management technical staff (a team of 5 members) actively participated in the assessment and the formulation of the emergency response processes. Moreover, the assessment served as a basis for the National Society to prepare one project "Response to the extreme winter conditions and floods" aiming to support the development of the National Society's Disaster Management program.
- Several meetings took place between the Ministry of Security and the NS's Secretary General and the IFRC Country Representative in order to discuss the possible role of RCSBiH in disaster management. At the beginning of 2012 the two parties signed an agreement which states that the RCSBiH is the organization responsible for DM interventions abroad. Furthermore, the agreement outlined rules for cooperation between the Civil Protection and Entity RC organizations within the country.

Business Line 3: Strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development

Output: 3.1.1 Support the RCSBiH in: developing capacities that will enable NS to provide European First Aid Certificate (EFAC) courses to the population; having EFAC trained staff; performing at least one awareness campaign with the Local Authorities on EFAC standards

Output: 3.2.1 Advocating, providing technical support and making resources available for the RCSBiH to implement projects aiming to promote culture of peace, integration and tolerance

Output: 3.2.2 Advocating, providing technical support and making the resources available for the RCSBiH projects involving Young Roma and their further integration into the mainstream aspects of the BH Society

Output: 3.2.3 Active aging promoted within the RCSBiH Home Care programme

Output: 3.3.1 Provide full support to the NS in developing three year operational plans based on the RCSBiH strategy with the participation of 3 structure components that ought to be adopted by the Presidency and shared within the whole structure;

Output: 3.3.2 Provide support to the NS in performing program reviews, updating programme planning according to the recommendations of the reviews

Output: 3.3.3 Provided support in organizing events for exchange of experiences on OD issues among RCS BiH leadership and their neighbouring NSs counterparts

Output: 3.4.1 Provide full support in developing a study (proposal) on optimization of the RCS BiH structure and relevant documents outlining clear recommendations on roles, tasks and responsibilities of different structure components and encouraging revision of the NS structure accordingly

Output: 3.4.2 Support RCS BiH in developing strategy for 2011-2015 in line with strategy 2020; and publishing the strategy document

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
3.1a # of workshops organized by the RCS BiH aiming to reach agreement in which way First aid activities will be implemented and what will be the role of RCS BiH HQ	0	1	2 meetings held with the NS leadership and 1

			with coordinators - Plan of Action developed
3.1b Relevant agreement signed	0	No target set for 2012	
3.1 c. Perform at least one awareness campaign with Local Authorities on EFAC standards	0	1	Accomplished the RCSBiH used the opportunity of FA competition at the state level to promote the EFAC standards
3.1d Number of persons that received EFAC trainings	0	2	Accomplished
3.2 a # of projects implemented within the structure	N/A	1	1 project started
3.2 b # projects where Youth acts as agents of behavioural change	N/A	1	1 project started
3.2.c International youth camps implemented by the RCSBiH in cooperation with other NS	N/A	No target set for 2012	
3.2 d. # RCSBiH activities on ageing are initiated	N/A	No target set for 2012	
3.2 e One project started on Active Aging	N/A	1	Initiated
3.3 a Operational plans developed with the involvement of the 3 structure components signed	N/A	4 meetings attended by the RCSBiH leadership	Two meetings have been performed but discussions have not yet been positively finalised
3.3 b # Workshops where RCSBiH is receiving support from IFRC (EZ and/or Country) technical team	N/A	No target set for 2012	
3.3c # Program reviews performed and recommendations produced	N/A	2	Terms of Reference for the program review set in place. First set of workshops at the local and regional RC organizations' level have been conducted
3.3.d # of questionnaires received from the field and entities	N/A	Two result evaluation reports received from the two entities' organizations Questionnaires received from the local organizations	Questionnaires were received from the local organization. Statistical data gathered and summarized

3.3e # of program plans produced addressing the reviews recommendations	N/A	2	Planned in 2013
3.3f # of Presidency members attending workshops on roles and tasks of governance and management	N/A	10 members from RCS BiH presidency	1 Workshop organised for December but has postponed due to internal problems of the NS
3.3g # Of events organised with participation of neighbouring NSs	N/A	No target set for 2012	
3.4a Relevant document signed	N/A	Study prepared and disseminated for finalisation	Planned in 2013
3.4 b # of structure components defined in the relevant document specifying roles, tasks and responsibilities within RCS BiH structure	0	No target set for 2012	
3.4c # of positions identified with clear tasks roles and responsibilities within each structure components	0	No target set for 2012	
3.4d The presidency gives mandate	N/A	Done	Planned in 2013
3.4 e strategic plan in line with Strategy 2020 published	N/A	Strategic Plan developed and shared with RC BiH leadership	Accomplished

Comments on progress towards outcomes

- The “First Aid at Work” project aims to develop capacities of the RCSBiH in providing training courses for Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and First Aid (FA) training according to the European First Aid Certificate (EFAC). Moreover, the aim 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 would bring forth RCSBiH as leading organization in EFAC training. Hence, the working group was established at the level of the RCSBiH HQs. The group is composed of one NS HQs representative, 2 Entity RC representatives and 1 IFRC country office representative. In 2012 the working group met three times and finalized Plan of Action (PoA) for the EFAC campaign through which the NS intends to raise awareness and advocate at the authorities for the importance of updating First aid training according to the EFAC standards. Moreover, with the IFRC financial support, two members of the NS HQs staff have successfully completed EFAC training in Bulgaria. During November, the National Society used the opportunity of the First Aid competition at the country level to successfully promote EFAC standards.
- The IFRC Sarajevo office cooperated closely with the National Society in initiating new projects. In 2012 the RCSBiH started the implementation of a project that aims to facilitate the integration of the Roma national minority into the mainstream aspects of the BH society. The following project locations have been chosen: Tuzla, Bijeljina, Brcko District. One of the key components of the project is to increase the Roma’s competitiveness in the existing BiH employment pool. The project provides trainings tailored for the labour market to Roma beneficiaries and facilitates agreements with the local employers in hiring trained Roma workers. Furthermore, special attention is geared towards the empowering Roma women through the provision of funds and support in developing small business and income generating activities. In addition, the Italian Red Cross, the Red Cross of Montenegro and Red Cross of Bosnia and Herzegovina have prepared one joint project with an aim to organize youth camps in each country. Red Cross and Roma youth will have the opportunity to attend various workshops and discussions on topics of promotion of peace, tolerance, diversity and integration. After a temporary delay in transfer of funds the project activities have been steadily reassumed mostly in terms of negotiation of funds distribution among the two entities and Participatory Community Development training for the project coordinators facilitated by the PCD expert from Macedonian Red Cross. Planned project activities will be resumed in 2013.
- At the beginning of 2012, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s home care working group

initiated implementation of an active aging component within the Home Care programme. With the technical support of the IFRC country representation the RCSBiH and IFRC EZ's financial support the RCSBiH has begun the implementation of preparatory activities for a study aiming to understand what active aging practices would be appropriate in the context of the existing Home Care program. In this regard, an exchange of experiences with the Red Cross of Serbia (possessing a great experience in implementing active aging component) took place, and potential researchers were shortlisted. During the visit to the Red Cross of Serbia the RCSBiH working group had an opportunity to attend EU Conference "The Strength of Experiences - Active Aging in Europe and Serbia". By December 2012 the study has been successfully completed with a support and expertise of one of the country's leading researchers Dr Kepeš. The study recommendations will serve as a basis for constructing activities within the implementation of Active Aging pilot project that will start in 2013. Further, the study is to be used as a basis to define advocacy messages and as a starting point for initiating a dialogue with the relevant authorities and influencing, at later stage, legislation/Policy change in favor of the older people.

- During the first half of the year, with the support of the IFRC Country Office, the RCSBiH has prepared Terms of Reference for the program reviews and the PMER training that will serve as a starting point in enhancing various program services improving RCSBiH transparency and accountability. During the second half of the year, first set of workshops at the local and regional RC organizations' level have been conducted with an aim to collect statistical data covered by the program review questionnaire such as: total number of volunteers, professionals, members, RC organizations included in municipal budget, programs implemented by the gives local RC and etc.
- Organizational Development tailored for the National Society remains the most sensitive and important area for the IFRC support. Through the meetings with the NS leadership priority development needs in terms of improvement of the Presidency performance have been identified. In that regard, organizing workshops focusing on the roles and tasks of the NS leadership together with the events where exchanges of experience with neighbouring NSs can take place was promoted and discussed. However, after being postponed two times, and due to the upcoming elections in the RCSBiH, it was then decided to organise the event after the coming elections.
- Where possible, IFRC and partner National Society's supported projects include capacity building activities such as trainings, experience exchanges and RCSBiH overall capacities to deliver services. During this year the IFRC country representation in a partnership with the British Red Cross supported participation of RCSBiH Financial manager to the Fundraising Skill share 2012 event (for more information please refer to Business line 4 progress towards outcomes section) and participation of the IFRC country officer in the "Capacity building course in communications for disaster risk reduction and disaster crisis management" between 5 and 9 November 2012.
- The RCSBiH's strategy 2011-2015 in line with the IFRC strategy 2020 has been developed and shared with the IFRC planning evaluation department in Geneva.

Business Line 4: Heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work

Output: 4.2.1 Advocate with the local authorities and support the NS in having the RC law revised; Support the RCSBiH in enhancing its partnership with the Ministry of Security and rescue and other relevant Ministries by regularly attending coordination meetings

Output: 4.3.1 Assist NS in organizing a partnership meeting in BiH by the end of 2013

Output: 4.3.2 In coordination with other PNSs and ICRC support NS in performing training on EU project proposal preparation

Output: 4.3.3 Training on resource mobilization performed with the support of EZ during 2012

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
4.2a # of project proposals that reflect RC auxiliary partnership role to the authorities	0	1	1
4.2b developed draft with outlined amendments	N/A	DONE	Amendments to the RC law

			prepared and set forth
4.2c approved RC law	N/A	No target set for 2012	
4.3 a One partnership meeting held	0	No target set for 2012	
4.3 b # of new partnerships developed	0	No target set for 2012	
4.3 c # of workshops focused on EU project proposals	1	No target set for 2012	
4.3d # of workshops focused on EU project proposals	1	0	The workshop has been organized by the ICRC as agreed for during the preparation of the LTPF
4.3e # of workshops held	0	1	1

Comments on progress towards outcomes

- With the support of the IFRC country representation the National Society has prepared one project proposal "*Response to the extreme winter conditions and floods*" aiming to support the development of the National Society's Disaster Management program reflecting the RCSBiH partnership role to the authorities. In addition the IFRC country representation has supported the National Society's new initiative to form and meet with the regional anti-trafficking network involving cross-border cooperation with the Red Cross organizations in Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia. Apart from representatives from the regional Red Cross organizations the discussion was enriched with the participation of the IFRC Europe Zone Senior Advisor and Head of International Organization for Migrations (IOM) in the region. One of the outcomes of the discussion was a regional initiative in form of a multidimensional-cross border project "Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings among Children and Youth", still under preparation. The project aim is to build capacity to enforce the role of civil society at national and grass-root level by addressing the needs of potential victims of trafficking. Further, the project's objective is to build capacities at the regional level of the Red Cross organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro as well as at national and grass-root levels by strengthening of its networks for cooperation and exchange of knowledge in addressing the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, potential victims of trafficking.
- The role of the IFRC Country Office in fostering cooperation between government and the National Society remains essential. In regard of the development of the Red Cross law, local lawyer was commissioned. The lawyer assisted NS in updating amendments to the Red Cross law and presenting it to the RCSBiH presidency. The amendments were discussed and agreed with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and Secretary of the House of Representatives of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly. The IFRC country representation continues to closely monitor the progress in order to understand if the support can be provided in terms of advocacy. The existing law on use and the protection of Red Cross emblem and name of the Red Cross Society of BiH, adopted in 2002 by the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, does not include sufficient number of provisions which could provide full protection of the emblem of the Red Cross in BiH. With that in mind the National Society has initiated activities aiming to ensure additional protection of the emblem by applying for trademark rights at the BiH Intellectual Property Rights' Institute. The Institute's preliminary conclusion is that the trademark application does not satisfy legal security conditions, taking into account that the trademark contains the emblem of the International Organization of the Red Cross; however it is open for further considerations. Meeting with the ICRC IFRC representatives, NS and legal team took place earlier in August to discuss further steps. Overall prospects of the emblem protection issue seem to go in favour of the expectations of the National Society.
- During the period between February and April 2012 the statutory commission of the RCSBiH prepared the proposal for the revision of the law and submitted to the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and

Refugees for approval. After the submission part of the RC structure has publicly raised objections thus impeding the discussion and approval of the revised law in the BiH parliament. The law with the proposed amendments has been sent back to the RCSBiH for further discussions within the structure before submitting it again to the Ministry.

- As the Partner National Societies' (PNS) resources are becoming scarce, so is their support to the RCSBiH. In sight of this decreased support from the PNSs, the IFRC Country Office places a significant focus on assisting the RCSBiH in mobilizing resources within their own country borders and entering into new partnerships. In coordination with the Spanish Red Cross and support of the IFRC EZ technical coordinator for resource mobilization, the four-day resource mobilization training was organized in January 2012. Over 20 participants from the NS went through the theoretical and practical training on main fundraising practices, which also resulted in some hands-on fundraising project proposals. Furthermore, with support of the ICRC, the training on EU project proposal writing was performed.
- In addition, British Red Cross in partnership with the IFRC has organized a Fundraising Skillshare 2012 event in period from 5th to 7th September 2012. This event took place at Roehampton University in London and was visited by 126 Red Cross and Red Crescent representatives from 59 countries. With the support of the IFRC country representation financial manager from the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina attended the event. The programme included a great range of plenary sessions and workshops with aim to provide inspiration by best practice, foster innovation and give opportunities to network and learn useful fundraising tools from colleagues from across the Movement. Fundraising Skillshare 2012 was used to represent the Federation-Wide Resource Mobilisation Strategy to all participants, what will provide a valuable forum to look into our shared future and offer a common ground to network, learn and be inspired.

Business Line 5: Deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability

Output: 5.4.2 Support the NS in developing and adopting the new unified reporting system, in line with FWRS through advocacy and provision of technical and financial support

Measurement			
Indicators	BL	Annual Target	Year to Date Actual
5.4a % of reports containing information according to the seven proxy indicators	0%	No target set for 2012	
5.4b #of IFRC supported workshops to develop new reporting system	0	2	PMER questionnaires developed. PMER PoA discussed. First set of workshops conducted in the RCRS entity. Second set has in RCFBiH entity been scheduled for 2013
5.4c number of staff trained on the new developed reporting format	0	No target set for 2012	

Comments on progress towards outcomes

- In accordance with the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) training plan of action (PoA) for the RCSBiH, PMER questionnaire has been developed. The aim of the questionnaire is to determine what type of training is needed (if needed) in order to develop a unified and functional reporting system in the RCSBiH as well as to understand what the reporting and planning requirements are at different levels. In addition, the aim was to collect the existing reporting and planning templates used in the RCSBiH structure. In December first set of workshops at the local and regional RC organizations' level have been conducted with an aim to complete the survey based on developed PMER questionnaire. Continuation of activities has been planned for 2013.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

The National Society's principal movement stakeholder is the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The Federation's office is well integrated in the RCSBiH Headquarters, 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 the National Society's key projects (i.e. Organizational Development), as well as activities targeting Roma minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Together with the Federation, the ITRC is a strong supporter of humanitarian diplomacy and multilateral projects such as Home Care and First Aid. During this reporting period, the National Society successfully met all its Partner National Society project proposal requirements, resulting in funds approval for the "Social Inclusion of the Roma" project. The project adopted participatory community development approach in its course of implementation. The key Roma community members and the Roma associations have been actively involved in shaping and planning the project activities. The participatory community development approach was very successful in bringing the National Society closer to the vulnerable groups and communities and, more importantly, allowing beneficiaries to make active decisions in the project design, implementation and course of action. Therefore, the National Society decided to take this approach in other upcoming projects such as the active aging.

Other main movement stakeholders working with the National Society are the International Red Cross Committee, the Austrian Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross. The cooperation and coordination among these actors are well established. During the reporting period a great emphasis was put on strengthening that cooperation in particular when it comes to joint activities aiming to improve the performances of the NS board members and their capacity to work together.

In delivering humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable population, the Red Cross Society also works in close partnership with several non-movement stakeholders such as foreign Governments and UN Organizations.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Key Risks or Positive Factors	Priority High Medium Low	Recommended Action
Fragmentation and division existing in the country could result in interests of single components of the structure being considered as a priority over those of the National Society as a whole	High	Enhance the capacity of the Board to be able to express the interests of the NS and act as a promoter of the needed actions for overall benefit of the National Society
The country's economic crisis in combination with a decrease in donor funds is further deepening existing difficult financial situation of the RCSBiH	Medium	Ensure all possible support for diversifying the NS resources. Maximum support to the NS when dealing with relevant Government bodies
Some contrasts due to recent issues occurred between some of the components of the RCSBiH which could affect the processes of update of the RC law and revision of the statute	High	Advocating for the importance of the Governing board as body above the parts and promoter of an agreement recalling the structure to the respect of the RC principles and the code of conduct.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a parliamentary republic, which is largely decentralized. It comprises two autonomous entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska, with a third region, the Brčko District, governed under local government. In the aftermath of the war, the country is still facing economic difficulties and social problems; its political and administrative fragmentation is an impediment to any solution to these problems. The BiH 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 unified government. It has become more apparent that unstable political cycles significantly affect the National Society's operations not only in terms of funding but also decision making processes, increasing the risk of pushing the interests of components of structure rather than those of the overall National Society. Therefore the need for empowering the national board plus a revision of roles, tasks and responsibilities of the three main structures has become even more eminent.

Furthermore, it is of essential importance to foster transparent and complete communication within the National Society. Adoption of the unified Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting procedures is one of the key elements in achieving such communication.

Efforts have to be undertaken by the National Society's board in promoting such changes and processes in particular when it comes to Organizational Development (OD). It is evident that the OD process can be successful if the needs of changes in direction of common interest is perceived by all structure levels and that it cannot be executed by the NS HQ technical services.

Financial situation

Click here to go directly to the financial report.

[http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF Process/LTPF/2012/SP566BALTPF_12arf.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/LTPF%20Process/LTPF/2012/SP566BALTPF_12arf.pdf)

How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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.

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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 nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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