



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES'

Annual Report & Financial Statements 2002

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INTRODUCTION

The year 2002 all the Programmes in Croatia and Yugoslavia were implemented as in the previous year and maximum numbers of beneficiaries have been reached. Furthermore a new confidence building programme in Macedonia has been implemented.

The cross border legal programme and the legal assistance and capacity building programme turned out to be a huge success, obtaining around 5000 administrative documents for people and at a large scale arranging housing and other return issues. On the basis of the large success of this programme, refugees and refugee organisations from all over Serbia have been contacted IA. This was at the basis for a overall fundraising initiative with the entire donor's community in the former Yugoslavia, to map the extent of the refugee crisis in Serbia and to propose different scenario's of solutions, depending on available funds.

Unfortunately, despite the needs, which remain huge, post-war issues cease to attract the attention of donors. The focus is now on democratic capacity building. However, a pre-condition for democratic capacity is that people have citizen's papers and enjoy citizens' rights, and can survive. Serbia still has over 500,000 refugees and IDPs. In order for democracy to succeed this crisis should be resolved. ECHO has recognised the value of the project, especially in view of the closing of the collective centres. The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe has taken on the project and is contacting donors and fortunately the Dutch Government is still funding at a minimum capacity, and IA is expecting supplementary funding to be able to do an other 3000 administrative cases and 300 court cases in 2003.

On the request of the European Commission's Conflict Prevention Unit (DG Relex), International Alliances had prepared and has implemented a confidence building programme on the basis of the model developed in the Croatian Danube Basin, to help in the post conflict reintegration and normalisation with mobile psycho-social teams visiting the conflict effected areas, supplemented by group sessions for elements of civil society.

IA has developed several model activities in the field of mediation-based human rights work in conflict affected areas and has started a phase of research to further develop these activity models, abstracting them from the Balkan context.

PROGRAMMES

The **Post War Psychosocial Rehabilitation Programme** (Croatia) has been assisting returnees and displaced persons to reintegrate since the start of 1998. The programme is realised in co-operation with the local implementing partner Sunce ("Sun" in Croatian). Teams of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and protection-officers work together on the psychosocial as well as the human rights aspects of the post-conflict process of reintegration. The Programme is run from the International Alliances office in Vukovar from where the mobile teams go to the field on a daily basis. The programme was closed in December 2002, while having guaranteed the sustainability through follow-up programmes.

- Number of Beneficiaries: 11,876

The **Cross Border Psychosocial Rehabilitation Programme** (F.R. Yugoslavia) assists refugees who fled to Yugoslavia from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH). This programme is implemented with the local partner 'the Humanitarian Centre for Integration and Tolerance' (HCIT). The programme assists refugees in their psychosocial and legal rehabilitation through the provision of counselling, therapy as well as ad hoc humanitarian assistance. Mobile teams intervene on a daily basis on the field where there are dense refugee communities. These teams include a psychologist and a lawyer who mutually refer cases to one-an-other. The lawyer takes the legal and administrative cases to the office in Novi Sad, and then they are resolved through the cross border legal programme.

- Number of Psycho-Social Beneficiaries: 2,991

The **Cross Border Legal Programme for Refugees** is also implemented in co-operation with the Humanitarian Centre for Integration and Tolerance (working with a network of refugee lawyers in Yugoslavia) as well as through a network of lawyers throughout Croatia. The lawyers of this network resolve the legal and administrative problems that the refugees currently residing in Yugoslavia encounter. As previously mentioned, the cases collected in the field are studied in the Novi Sad office before being taken 'cross-border' to the Vukovar office in Croatia. The Vukovar office then distributes the cases among the attorneys/paralegals participating in the network. Once resolved, the legal/administrative documents and decisions are forwarded to the beneficiaries via the logistical/administrative intervention of the Vukovar and Novi Sad offices.

- Number of Beneficiaries: 15,000
- Number of Administrative documents obtained in one year: 4,203
- Number of Court cases initiated in one year: 264

The **Legal Capacity Building Programme** (Croatia) is realised linked to the afore-mentioned legal programme. The local implementing partner is "Transitions to Democracy" (ToD), a Croatian NGO with offices in Zagreb, Split and Vukovar. The aim of this programme is the democratisation of the legal system in Croatia in view of resolving human rights issues and other legal obstacles, which remain a source of tension between the national communities. This is fundamental in strengthening civil society and promoting democratic values. Conferences and seminars are organised for the Croatian attorney's

network, a database for the publication of legal decisions is being developed, and some human rights cases are undertaken.

The **Post Conflict Confidence Building Programme** (Macedonia) has as its main objective the promotion of inter-communal conciliation between the discordant communities in the conflict affected regions of Macedonia. The Programme is implemented with the local implementing partner 'The Centre for Inter-Ethnic Tolerance and Refugees'. The Programme is based on mobile teams undertaking community based field work, linked with conciliation and peace building activities. The mediation in the communities and through a large number of group sessions are issue-orientated and hands on and are guided by the basic principles of the Ohrid peace agreement.

- Number of Beneficiaries: 2759

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Sunce – implementing partner Croatian Danube Basin

“Sunce” Society for Psychological Assistance is a professional society established by experts from various fields of humanitarian activities, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and teachers. Sunce has been active in the field of psychological rehabilitation of war victims since 1991, offering help to people traumatised by war in their efforts to face their personal and family losses. Sunce is the implementing partner of the Post-War Psychosocial Rehabilitation Programme in the CDB.

20 psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers

HCIT– Implementing Partner, Cross Border Psycho-Social and Legal Rehabilitation Programmes

"HCIT" is a humanitarian non-governmental organisation, which is involved in many activities with refugees in the Vojvodina. HCIT has a large network of lawyers, psychologists, and psychiatrists. In 29 communities in the Vojvodina, HCIT is doing legal counselling and is also providing some humanitarian and social assistance and is doing micro-projects on an incidental basis. Other activities of HCIT are observing the changes of the legal systems in former Yugoslavia, organising seminars and learning opportunities for their employees and the follow-up on human rights issues in the former Yugoslavia.

19 lawyers and psychologists

ToD – Implementing Partner Cross Border Legal Rehabilitation Programme

Transition to Democracy (ToD) is a Croatian NGO working in co-operation with offices registered in Belgrade, Sarajevo, and Ljubljana. ToD was created after the war started in 1991. ToD is multi-issue organisation insisting that democracy cannot be separated from social justice. In addition to conflict resolution and reconciliation, it attempts to spread a political culture of democracy by helping democratic trade unions, women's organisations, student groups etc. Since 1993, ToD has been running an Annual Summer School for Democracy in Croatia. ToD has thus a large network of lawyers, humanitarian organisations, human rights and non-nationalist political activists, which will enable ToD to arrange all kind of administrative and legal issues, which the Croatian Serb refugees in Vojvodina face.

5 programme staff in Zagreb, Vukovar and Split

The Centre for Interethnic Tolerance and Refugees

Founded in January 2000 as an NGO, The Centre for Interethnic Tolerance and Refugees has three main objectives:

1. The care, protection and assistance for persons with the status of refugees.
2. The care, protection and assistance for persons with the status of IDPs.
3. The provision of assistance to all categories of individuals to whom it is necessary regardless of ethnic, cultural or national identity.

The CITER have annual cooperation program with Macedonian Ferial Alliance in witch part is 4 summer schools for children on Prespan lake. Another very large program they are involved through lawyers which are part of CITER is education of Police forces on they rights and rights of citizens. Third program is mainly financed by Soros foundation and working on organizing meetings of NGO sector and increasing they role in civil society, especially before elections.

Permanent staff: 6, on programs 18 lawyers, psychologists and social workers.