

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Moldova

Appeal No. MAAMD002

31/08/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/09 to 30/06/09.



Volunteers of Ungheni Red Cross branch at a public event dedicated to the International Day of Red Cross Red Crescent. **Moldova Red Cross**

In brief

Programme purpose: The International Federation supported programmes in Moldova aim to mitigate the impact of disasters, including population movement and socio-economic crises; improve the health status of the population of vulnerable groups; strengthen the capacity of the Moldova Red Cross to respond effectively to the needs of the most vulnerable people; promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Programme summary: During the first half of 2009, with the financial support of the Norwegian government, the Moldova Red Cross focused on the components which strengthen its capacities in disaster preparedness and response, development of volunteering, promotion of gender equality and prevention of domestic violence against women and children, forging partnerships with public authorities and other stakeholders to help prevent and respond jointly to the community needs, specifically in times of disaster, and reducing vulnerabilities of marginalized groups through advocacy, public education and social support.

The application to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the continuation of funding was not successful. Since it has been the sole funder, the Moldova Red Cross needs to urgently develop a strategy to get access to new funding sources. This is being addressed by the board, assisted by the International Federation's representatives in Minsk, Moscow and Budapest.

In May, the Moldova Red Cross finalized its relief operation assisting flood affected communities in some of the most impoverished parts of the country. Some 1,932 families were assisted through direct relief distributions, psychosocial support or repair of their damaged houses.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget is CHF 455,106 (USD 423,505 or EUR 298,916), of which 37 per cent covered. Expenditure overall was 56 per cent of received funding.

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

See also: [Floods \(MDR67003\) - Emergency Appeal.](#)

No. of people we help: During the first half of 2009 more than 22,523¹ people in the Republic of Moldova benefited directly from International Federation programme interventions.

Programme Update January-June 2009 – Moldova	
Programme	People reached
Disaster Management	2,576
Health and Care	4,232
Organizational Development	1,315
Principles and Values	14,400
Total number of people reached	22,523

Our partners: The Moldova Red Cross cooperates with the Norwegian and Swiss Red Cross Societies, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, Ministry of Education, Department for Emergency Situations and the International Organization for Migration and other NGOs.

Context

Moldova's economy, severely hit by the global economic crisis, is contracting with a real 6.9 per cent shrink on the year in the first quarter of 2009. This is due to falling industrial output, consumption and exports. Consumption fell due to a decrease in remittances from Moldovan migrant workers abroad. More than 25 per cent of the economically active population has left the country in search of better economic opportunities abroad. A significant proportion of these migrants are young, highly educated and skilled. Since the beginning of the crisis it has been more difficult for them to retain their job in receiving countries and to continue sending money home. It is a real possibility that the economic conditions in the countries where they are working may force them to come back to Moldova. Thus, improvements in social assistance programmes and labour market policies will be necessary.

The number of Moldova's jobless citizens, registered with the employment agency from the beginning of 2009, exceeded 57,000 people, with 29,500 of them being women.

Older people living alone, people with disabilities, patients with chronic diseases, orphans and youth are the most exposed to social and health risks. These people continue to depend on international humanitarian aid. The government-initiated poverty reduction programme has not brought considerable results yet. Support from the international community has declined, and the local needs overwhelm the capacities of the government.

Meanwhile, rates of HIV are increasing. In 2008, some 795 new cases of HIV were registered, with the epidemic covering all administrative territories and characterized by both rural and urban spread of the infection.

These real and current humanitarian challenges define the priorities of the Red Cross Society of Moldova.

¹ Including beneficiaries of the emergency operation funded through an emergency appeal in Moldova.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Outcomes/Expected results:

- *Disaster management plan is reviewed and updated;*
- *National Society's disaster preparedness and response skills and material resources for emergency relief are strengthened;*
- *Communities are better informed and prepared to act effectively in case of disasters;*
- *The nutritional and hygiene status of people affected by disasters and their access to quality social services is improved.*

Achievements: To initiate a review and update of the disaster management plan the National Society held a series of coordination meetings with various partners, involved in disaster management activities in Moldova.

In order to increase disaster preparedness and response skills, the National Society conducted a seminar for 35 Red Cross staff, volunteers, representatives of local authorities and mass media. The seminar was organized jointly with experts of the Centre of Civil Protection and Emergency Situations. Three coordination meetings with project partners have been conducted, where the roles and responsibilities of the Moldova Red Cross in disaster situations were discussed.

In the first half of 2009, the Moldova Red Cross has put a focus on increasing the awareness levels of the population to the risk of disasters. Red Cross volunteers trained in disaster management have conducted information sessions for the people living in locations prone to landslides and floods. Information materials on the disasters that hit Moldova the most often have been developed and distributed to the general population in these areas during home visits and information sessions conducted by volunteers. The programme monitoring and mid-term evaluations conducted by National Society coordinators and International Federation staff showed that at least 40 per cent of the population is aware of the risks of disasters and gained knowledge on how to prepare for and address their consequences. During the first six months of 2009, more than 800 people from disaster prone areas were covered by this work.

From January to June, 25 new volunteers were recruited and trained in disaster management. In order to replenish the Red Cross emergency stock, winter uniforms for national disaster response teams were procured.

Under the relief component, the Moldova Red Cross has provided 700 supplementary food parcels and 800 hygiene kits to 1,500 vulnerable families in Chisinau, Glodeni, Rezina, Bender, Anenii Noi, Calaras, Orhei and Briceni. The activities included selecting beneficiaries jointly with the Ministry of Social Protection, distributing food and hygiene kits to the most vulnerable groups including street children, orphans and older people with minimal income.

Floods operation in Moldova

Flooding of the Dniester and Prut rivers in August 2008 resulted in around 40 deaths, some 30,000 people displaced and up to one billion US dollars worth of damage, according to figures from the Ukrainian and Moldovan governments. The contamination of wells and water sources left people without drinking water and gave rise to serious epidemiological conditions.

Within this emergency operation, the Moldova Red Cross has provided vital services to flood affected communities in some of the most impoverished parts of Moldova. In total, 1,850 families in Moldova have received 4,000 food parcels, 3,963 hygiene parcels, 1,500 blankets and bed

linen sets and 500 pillows. The Moldova Red Cross has also distributed 500 water filters (one per family) to ensure that local communities have clean drinking water.

The National Society also deployed a mobile response team to do minor repairs for families whose homes had been damaged by the floods. The team has repaired 82 houses. Red Cross visiting nurses travelled together with the mobile response teams to offer basic nursing services and psychosocial support to the disaster affected families.

Health and Care

Outcomes/Expected results

- *The level of HIV transmission amongst various target groups is decreased due to public awareness and behaviour-changing activities of the Red Cross;*
- *The National Society capacities in reducing stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV are strengthened;*
- *The preparedness and response capacity of the National Society to public health emergencies has been strengthened;*
- *The capacity of the communities' visiting nurses service to provide socio-medical assistance to vulnerable people has increased.*

Achievements

HIV and AIDS

Due to low financial coverage of the health and care programme, the Moldova Red Cross had to scale down the activities under this component. However the Bender branch continues to implement activities to reduce stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV and to increase public awareness and harm reduction jointly with local administration and other NGOs. During the first half of 2009 the branch's harm reduction centre registered 93 injecting drug users, paid 692 visits and distributed 7,200 condoms and 7,000 syringes. The centre is run by a Red Cross team, comprised of a narcologist, a psychologist, a legal adviser and a nurse who work on a voluntary basis. In addition, volunteers continue to run peer education activities that target high risk groups in order to halt the spread of HIV. Volunteers conducted ten peer education sessions in schools and penitentiaries targeting 450 people.

Influenza pandemics

To strengthen the knowledge of Red Cross staff and volunteers on an influenza pandemic, the National Society has conducted six workshops in six of its branches (Orhei, Bender, Glodeni, Calarasi, Ungheni, Criuleni) for directors, visiting nurses and volunteers covering 150 persons. The aim of the workshops was to provide staff and volunteers with information on a future pandemic and to raise levels of awareness on the risks of infection. These six branches also organized information sessions on human pandemic preparedness for 1,200 people. In addition, to improve coordination with other stakeholders and to discuss the plan of action and the roles each partners would play in the event of an influenza pandemic two partnership coordination meetings were conducted for 60 people in Chisinau and Bender branches.

Visiting nurses service

There was no funding received for the visiting nurses service through the Secretariat Plan. With its own funds the Moldova Red Cross was able to support 11 out of the 14 visiting nurses. During the first six months of 2009 Red Cross visiting nurses registered 4,800 visits and assisted 770 people.

First aid

During the first six months of the year, 8 facilitators, trained in first aid under the project financed by French Red Cross in 2008, provided first-aid training to 63 persons.

Organisational Development

Outcomes/Expected results:

- *Moldova Red Cross management structure, systems and procedures are strengthened;*
- *Branches and units are supported with a suitable volunteer policy and simple volunteer management procedures.*

Achievements: During the national volunteer workshop held in Chisinau in March, five volunteer taskforce units were established in the most active Red Cross branches of Bender, Calarasi, Comrat, Glodeni and Ungheni. The newly created units have drawn up plans of activities in their branches for the upcoming period. These units will help to organize the work of volunteers in their communities, promote Red Cross principles and activities, attract new volunteers and assist staff in implementing various activities. Thus, in the first half of 2009, the taskforce units conducted 50 information sessions for 1,150 senior pupils from schools and lyceums on humanitarian activities and organized charity actions for 165 older people providing them with small gifts made by school pupils, and food products donated by private businesses.

In order to support the volunteers' initiatives a project contest was launched in March. Three projects from Bender, Calarasi and Glodeni Red Cross branches were selected for financing. The project of the Bender branch, "School of charity" has already started. A volunteer database is still under development. Some 2,000 volunteers were involved in Moldova Red Cross activities in the first half of 2009.

A national seminar on leadership was organized in Chisinau in May for 27 Red Cross staff and volunteers; two local seminars on volunteer management were held in Ungheni and Bender branches for 48 volunteers; and six coordination meetings took place in five branches to discuss the involvement of volunteers in the activities of the community.

Principles and Values

Outcomes/Expected results:

- *Capacities of the Moldova Red Cross to promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values are increased;*
- *The level of tolerance and respect for marginalized groups is increased in Moldova;*
- *Vulnerable communities are equipped with the necessary knowledge to prevent trafficking and domestic violence against women and children;*
- *Capacities of the Moldova Red Cross to combat trafficking and domestic violence against women and children are strengthened.*

Achievements

The Moldova Red Cross has disseminated fundamental principles and humanitarian values through country-wide youth workshops, information sessions and youth events. All activities held during the first half of 2009 proved to be of great interest amongst children and Red Cross volunteers. The total number of youth reached through key programme activities (public events, round tables, seminars and competitions) is estimated at 10,224 people. In addition, round-table meetings and education sessions offered young people the opportunity to express their own opinions and develop public speaking skills.

From January to June, trained volunteers conducted 70 information sessions for senior pupils from schools and lyceums on humanitarian values covering 1,750 persons. In addition, the project staff organized charity actions for 26 vulnerable children, bringing them small Christmas gifts. Four public events organized in four branches were dedicated to the International Day of Red Cross and Red Crescent.

In 2008, with financial support of the Norwegian government, the Moldova Red Cross started implementing the "*Combating domestic violence against women and children*" project in four branches which continued in 2009 as well. The project will strengthen the capacities of the National Society in dealing with this important issue. Within this project trained volunteers have conducted more than 70 information sessions in schools and lyceums, targeting 1,470 persons. Information materials on preventing domestic violence were printed and disseminated at seminars, meetings and public events. Also, project staff provided psychological support to victims of domestic violence. More than 2,400 persons have been covered by project activities thus far.

Working in partnership

At community level the Moldova Red Cross cooperates with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child, the Ministry of Education, the Centre of Civil Protection and Emergency Situations and the local authorities. The National Society has regular contact with the government. It is noted that governmental officials are showing respect and acceptance for the independence of the Red Cross. The material assistance from the authorities is, however, mainly limited to providing free office premises and transportation.

On a bilateral basis the Red Cross cooperates with the Swiss Red Cross in the framework of the project *Social canteens for vulnerable people*. Another bilateral cooperation is the *Twice Christmas* programme implemented jointly with the Swiss Red Cross.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The Moldova Red Cross will continue to build its organizational capacity at national and regional levels by strengthening volunteer and staff management systems. The process of dividing functional responsibilities between governance and management at branch level needs finalizing, while diversifying funding and increasing the number of active volunteers and youth is a must. All this will help it be a valuable partner for the government and the donor community.

Looking ahead

The Moldova Red Cross is facing a difficult financial situation caused by the rejection of the human pandemic preparedness and the intensified capacity building proposals submitted by the Red Cross Society in 2008. The application to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs was not successful either. In this situation the society, supported by the International Federation, has to urgently develop a strategy to try to get access to necessary resources.

How we work	
<p>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".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

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