

# Annual report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Moldova

Appeal No. MAAMD002

30/April/2011

This report covers the period 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010



Group of volunteers participating in a Disaster management seminar in Ungheni Moldova, Oscar Zuluaga, IFRC.

## In brief

**Programme outcome:** The National Society programmes are aligned with the strategic aims of the 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 in line with the enabling action one to build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

**Programme(s) summary:** During 2010 the National Society received funds to help people affected by disasters and for programs related to organisational development, health and care.

Compared with 2009 the total number of natural emergencies in 2010 increased by 41.62% (48 to 68). Heavy rains and flooding in July 2010 have directly affected 12,000 people. The most affected district is Hincesti where 700 houses have been destroyed. Through this emergency operation, Moldova Red Cross distributed humanitarian aid to 1,600 families amounting to 6,400 people in six branches.<sup>1</sup> The National Society organised a campaign in the big supermarkets, where food, money and hygiene kits were collected and distributed later to the affected families.

The National Society received funds from IFRC to run a pilot project focusing on pandemic influenza (H2P) preparedness and response: totally 3,482 people were reached through activities and services by visiting nurses. A total of 1,580 persons benefited from medical assistance and psychosocial support. Additionally 1,902 persons received social assistance and 4,123 people received presents donated throughout the program "Two times Christmas".

In HIV/AIDS the National Society organised 100 information education campaigns (IECs) to raise the awareness of the population. In first-aid activities the Estonian Red Cross facilitated training for 13 trainers in April.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRMD003dfr.pdf>

In National Society development a Federation special advisor started his one year mission in the National Society in June 2010. The key task for the advisor is to support capacity building processes while at the same time being integrated with the National Society. The IFRC granted the National Society funding through the Federation Capacity Building Fund (CBF) to support the creation of partnerships with local communities and strengthening of local branches and volunteers' network. The implementation of the programme was postponed due to the situation and operation after the floods. It is promising that the National Society improved its financial reporting capacity and now met the criteria by international donors. Narrative reports made substantial progress as well.

**Financial situation:** The total for 2010 was CHF 245,851 of which CHF 254,784 (104 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Expenditure was CHF 200,931 (78 per cent) against funding . The 2010 budget was increased from initially CHF 100,000 due to increased funding.

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

**No. of people we have reached:**

Programme/ project	Target group	Number of people reached	Other details
Disaster management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population affected by floods</li> <li>People trained in DM</li> </ul>	6400 250	Supported by DREF and Norwegian RC
HIV prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 sessions in schools</li> <li>people with HIV helped</li> </ul>	2500 students 60	Participation of 370 young volunteers
Health activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People with TB</li> <li>Family members</li> <li>Elderly people</li> <li>H2P prevention</li> <li>People received food parcels and hygiene kits</li> <li>First Aid training courses</li> </ul>	142 1,043 840 12.000 554 92	Done by visiting nurses and 125 volunteers in the branches 13 trainers of trainers
Social actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>44 children, 928 elderly, 1168 disable, 1245 low income</li> <li>meals for poor people</li> </ul>	4123  1405	Presents donated by Swiss RC- Two times Christmas  Done in 8 branches
Principles and humanitarian values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>young people</li> </ul>	283	Dissemination of Humanitarian Principles
<b>Total</b>		<b>29.692</b>	

**Our partners:** The Italian Red Cross provided support through IFRC to the Moldova country plan. Support and cooperation also came from the Japanese Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross, the Bulgarian RC, the Spanish Red Cross, The Egypt Red Crescent and United Arab Emirates Red Crescent. Moreover the Moldova Red Cross works closely with the Centre for Civil Protection and Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Protection, Ngo's and local authorities. Being interested in the region, the Norwegian Red Cross decided on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August to contribute to the floods emergency operation with approximately CHF 78,553.

## Context

After 20 years of transition, the Republic of Moldova is still in the process of territorial consolidation, grappling with high unemployment, poor investment climate, an enormous foreign debt and pervasive corruption. The global financial crisis has worsened the economic situation of the vulnerable people. According to local Red Cross branches, the number of people requesting Moldova Red Cross assistance has increased. The most affected are older people, people with disabilities, multi-child families, single-parent families and people working in the construction industry who lost their jobs.

Widespread poverty and lack of job opportunities are push factors for labour migration; of the nation's 4.3 million citizens, as many as one million Moldovan nationals are working abroad. Labour migration is also a main source of income for many and according to the World Bank Moldova had the largest share of remittances as a percentage of GDP in 2007. However, due to the economic crisis the amount decreased significantly. The high emigration rate has led to whole villages and towns experiencing a "missing generation" where grandparents raise children, who themselves emigrate.

In recent years the economic situation has brought significant demographic changes. Birth rates have dropped with most families having only one child or postponing having children indefinitely. The population decrease is accompanied by a deteriorating quality of life, particularly in health. Social ills, among them alcoholism, drug addiction and domestic violence are on the increase. Domestic violence is one of the root causes of child abandonment, institutionalization, substance abuse and juvenile crime.

Per January 2009, totally 4,733 cases of HIV infection were recorded in Moldova. The morbidity of people living with HIV per 100,000 inhabitants constitutes around 17 per cent. About 80 per cent of people living with HIV (PLHIV) are young people aged 15-29. According to the Ministry of Health in 2009 the spread of drug use remains high in Moldova. More than 90 per cent of drug users are men and youth aged 15-19 constitutes almost 40 per cent.

The Moldovan population is vulnerability to disasters. Moldova is prone to various disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, droughts and floods which affect a significant number of people annually. Besides that, there are about 320 dangerous chemical plants on the territory of the country that produced 150 accidents in the past 10 years.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster Management

<b>Programme component 1: Community and organizational preparedness</b>
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<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Disaster management plan is reviewed and updated.
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<b>Component outcome 2:</b> The National Society's disaster preparedness and response skills and material resources for emergency relief are strengthened.
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**Achievements:** No direct funding was received for disaster management programme activities; however the support received via Federation /DREF and the Norwegian Red Cross support resulted in some achievements towards community and organizational preparedness.

The Moldova Red Cross distributed humanitarian aid to 1,600 families a total of 6,400 people, affected by the floods in July /August. As relief items the National Society provided blankets, food parcels, hygiene kits, kitchen sets and services in the mostly hit branches. Also they distributed the 700 kitchen sets-donated by Norwegian Red Cross- to the most affected families.

In order to strengthen the disaster preparedness and response skills of the National Society staff, the Federation Europe Zone Office provided training in Disaster Management for all branches in October and supported the National Society to publish a new document regarding the vulnerability to disasters in the country with maps, graphics, statistics and drawings - in Rumanian and Russian: 1000 copies were printing and the NS started the distribution in villages to the community and authorities.

There was a great interest to include some areas of psychological support in disasters and reduction of violence, which affects specially children, women and elderly. In this regard, with the support of

Norwegian Red Cross, Moldova Red Cross updated and printed the following manuals: “Psychosocial support in emergencies”, “First Aid in emergencies”, “Assess vulnerabilities to emergencies”, “Volunteers working in emergencies” and “Ten steps to creating safe environments for children”, which will be distributed among the branches and communities during 2011, will consolidate branch capacity and be used in emergencies and working with youth/volunteers.

**Constraints or Challenges:** Limited resources and subsequently low capacity of the National Red Cross impeded the improvement of disaster management capacities.

## Health and Care

**Programme component 1: Influenza pandemics- HIV/AIDS- First Aid training and care activities**

**Component outcome:** The preparedness and response capacity of the National Society to public health emergencies has been strengthened.

**Achievements:** In health and care the extensive participation and commitment of volunteers contribute to high efficiency and enables the Moldova Red Cross to increase the number of people reached. In 2010 the National Society focused on pandemic influenza (H2P) preparedness and response, visiting nurses service, HIV and AIDS, and First Aid training courses.

The National Society received funds from IFRC to run a pilot project focusing on pandemic influenza (H2P) preparedness and response. This contributed to strengthening the health preparedness and response capacity of the National Society. In terms of awareness about the pandemic the following activities were carried out:

- Totally 12,540 posters and 7,750 bookmarks on the prophylaxis of pandemic influenza were distributed.
- Trained Red Cross volunteers organized 89 informational sessions on pandemic influenza reaching several thousand people in 62 municipalities in 8 districts.
- In total 16 Red Cross volunteers were trained to become trainers and leaders in volunteering for social mobilization in local communities focusing on the pandemic influenza.
- Preparedness and response exercises were organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Health which contributed to consolidating the theoretical knowledge accumulated during national and regional seminars for volunteers.

Apart from the activities and results addressing the pandemic influenza, the National Society carried out activities related to the visiting nurses service, HIV and AIDS, and first aid. Funding received from the Japanese Red Cross in 2009 allowed the National Society to continue supporting vulnerable people through its visiting nurses service.

From November 2009 to April 2010 totally 3,482 people were reached through activities and services by visiting nurses. A total of 1,580 persons benefited from medical assistance and psychosocial support including 1,224 lonely elderly, 91 HIV and AIDS patients and 265 TB patients. Moreover, additionally 1,902 persons received social assistance such as food products, clothes, stationary, hygiene items and sweets. In order to improve the future implementation of the visiting nurses service, a survey was carried out by Red Cross staff and volunteers in January and February.

In March the Glodeni branch organized a round table meeting on the campaign “Our world. Your move.” In total 20 visiting nurses, volunteers and local authorities participated. During the meeting the main topic was the improvement of living conditions of elderly people.

In HIV and AIDS the National Society aimed to raise the awareness among the population. Although no funding was provided though the Federation country plan the National Society carried out several activities with their own funds:

- Totally 8,402 booklets on the prophylaxis of HIV and AIDS and TB were distributed.
- A seminar on “Psychosocial support for HIV and AIDS, TB and pandemic influenza patients” was organized in February. Totally 25 persons took part including 5 visiting nurses, 7 staff from the headquarters and 12 volunteers.
- A round table meeting with the youth club “Friendship” on HIV and AIDS and drug use was organized by Balti Red Cross branch. Totally 28 people took part.

- In May a campaign in the universities was conducted and involved young people. On 1<sup>st</sup> of December volunteers distributed information materials and condoms to the public.

In first-aid, the Estonian Red Cross facilitated training for trainers in April, with the participation of 13 volunteers and staff. Later on a new First Aid coordinator was nominated at the end of the year. In October during a meeting with all the trainers, the First Aid manual was revised and updated. The National Society applied for European Aid certificate in First Aid in October 2010. Training courses could be one important source of sustainability in the near future.

**Constraints or Challenges:** Some improvements in the organizational capacity and human resources for health and care projects facilitate the implementation of First Aid training and Health prevention activities. The National Society is very traditional and needs to implement sustainable activities such as the provision of commercial First Aid training courses.

## Organizational Development/Capacity Building

<b>Programme component 1: Sustainable systems, procedures and staff.</b>
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<b>Component outcome:</b> The Moldova Red Cross management structure, systems and procedures are strengthened.
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**Achievements:** Considering the somewhat limited capacities of the National Society at headquarters and branch level, organizational development and capacity building are key priorities. Hence in order to support the Moldova Red Cross a Federation special advisor started his mission in the National Society in June. The key task for the advisor is to support capacity building processes while at the same time being integrated with the National Society.

Moreover, at the end of June IFRC granted the National Society funding through the Federation Capacity Building Fund (CBF) to support strengthening Red Cross branches in the fields of disaster management, youth volunteers, to reduce violence against children, engaging elderly people for volunteering and building relationships with local communities. More specifically local branches will work with vulnerable communities through a participatory approach aiming to reduce their vulnerability and strengthen the social integration of marginalized groups. Due to the floods emergency operation, the implementation of this project was postponed until January 2011.

In October 2010 the Deputy Prime Minister of the country presented to Moldova Red Cross and the Federation Zone a letter congratulating them for the excellent job done during the recent years and thanking the RC/RC for their solidarity and commitment with Moldova

It is promising that the National Society improved its financial reporting capacity and now met the criteria of international donors. The narrative reporting capacity of the National society staff has improved significantly after training and coaching in December from the European Zone reporting delegate deployed to Chisinau.

**Constraints or Challenges:** Both the work of the Federation special advisor and the implementation of the Federation supported capacity building project are in an early phase, no major difficulties were experienced so far.

This is the first time the Federation Secretariat provided a tailored approach to Moldova Red Cross, a small National Society who needs to develop their branches and volunteers starting also new programs like the Ten steps-reduction of violence against children- and the senior volunteers.

It takes time that the leadership of the National Society understand and accepts the new trends and approaches included in the strategy 2020.

It's important to give continuity to the support provided by a delegate during one year, with frequent visits and other actions.

## Principles and Values

### Programme component 1: Combating trafficking- Dissemination of Humanitarian values

**Component outcome 1:** Vulnerable communities are equipped with the necessary knowledge to prevent trafficking.

**Component outcome 2:** Capacities of the Moldova Red Cross to combat trafficking are strengthened.

**Achievements:** No financial support was received through the Federation Moldova country plan. Still the National Society managed to work towards and actually received funding for the beginning of 2011.

Moldova Red Cross is partner in a project proposal on human trafficking submitted to the EU. The objective is to strengthen national mechanisms for the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking in Moldova. This will be achieved by the Red Cross becoming more involved in identification, referral and assistance to ensure sustainable access to services for victims of trafficking. The decision from EU was taken at the end of 2010 and the implementation will start in April 2011.

The National Society received a grant from the Spanish Red Cross for prevention of trafficking and raising awareness of the population, which were developed during six month in 3 Red Cross branches (Bender, Soroca and Calarasi) with the participation of 58 volunteers.

Expected results:

- Training of Moldova Red Cross staff and volunteers involved in preventing human trafficking.
- Increase awareness of the groups of risk.
- Provide psychological and humanitarian support to victims of human trafficking.
- Increase population awareness on the risks of human trafficking.

All in all have been organized 76 informative and awareness sessions, 4500 booklets offered by the International Organization for Migration have been distributed. 2 newspaper articles on the activities of Moldova Red Cross, have been published in local media.

Totally 283 volunteers were trained in the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and dissemination methods. Moreover, the 16 volunteers who were trained to become trainers and leaders in social mobilization under the health programme contributed to the principles and values programme. The objective of the increased involvement of volunteers is to reach further with the messages of the National Society. The volunteers are participating in information sessions and dissemination activities, for example promotion the rights of elderly people in terms of social protection and medical assistance and their involvement as senior volunteers. During 2010 the partnership with local public authorities was strengthened.

**Constraints or Challenges:** A somewhat low capacity hampers implementation of needed activities. Hence there is a need to reinforce the human resource base especially in branches and the coordination from NHQ.

## Working in partnership

- During 2010 Moldova Red Cross increased the cooperation with the Europe Zone Office in Budapest which deploys a delegate to Chisinau for one year to help the National Society
- The work in areas like Disaster management through training workshops done by two delegates in October 2010 was strengthened.
- It was also important the work done by a reporting delegate in December, the visit of the Head of Operations in October, the permanent support to programs such as First Aid training, volunteering, Health and OD and the cooperation to present different projects to donor National Societies during 2010.
- A technical cooperation agreement with Canadian Red Cross was signed in order to implement the program to “reduce the violence against children”.

- The reputation and image of the National Society has improved and acknowledged by all partners and by the publication of the five manuals done with the technical support of the delegate based in Chisinau.
- Due to the elections in late 2010, the relations of the new government were re-started only in 2011, especially with the Civil Protection, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior.

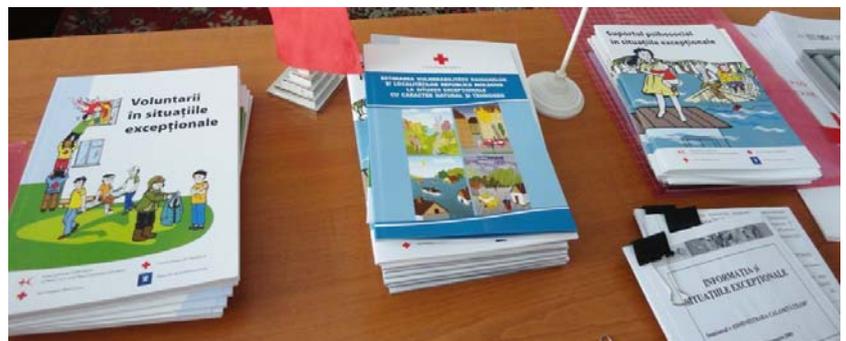
## Contributing to longer-term impact

The Federation supported programmes in Moldova are aligned with and contribute to the strategic aims in Strategy 2020. The integration of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values in all programme activities influences people's behaviour by promoting respect for diversity, reducing discrimination, intolerance and violence. The emphasis of the Red Cross continues to be on providing direct services with a lasting impact. In doing so capacity-building is pursued in parallel. The National Society is committed to implement the decisions taken by the European Conference held in Vienna in April 2010.

The National Society accepted to be part of the test run of the Federation-wide Reporting System to provide information according to the seven key proxy indicators. That allowed them to improve their internal information and statistics procedures. To build on this experience the National Society is investigating how to establish its monitoring and evaluation system in a more effective and functional method.

Competence-building is a key element in all project activities carried out by the Moldova Red Cross as it encourages knowledge, skills and experience development. The activities have built and strengthened the capacities both at the national and local level, enabling the National Society to provide support and services to those people in need in the local communities. It is essential for the National Society to be more competitive in raising funds from various partners and donors and to become financially sustainable.

By preparing, translating and disseminating several guidance and information materials the Red Cross continues to encourage and involve more youth in its programmes, thus improving and reinforcing its volunteer network.



Guidance booklets and materials translated, designed and disseminated by Moldova Red Cross Society.  
Photo: Moldova Red Cross

## Looking ahead

- It is recommended to continue the closer cooperation with the Europe Zone Office instead of the BRUM approach adopted during many years which is not adequate for small National Society like Moldova Red Cross.
- The National Society should focus on the building of the capacity further on in their branches, improvement of volunteers and youth networks through the new programs related to education and prevention.
- Due to the country's vulnerability to disasters, strengthening the DM capacities and staff is also recommended
- The Moldova Red Cross needs to increase the sustainability of its programmes, signing contracts and agreements with the authorities and national enterprises, promoting the commercial First Aid training courses, and reducing the dependence to external donors.

**All Federation 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 is committed to 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.

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

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## Contact information

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