

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Montenegro

Appeal No. MAAME001

01 May 2010

This report covers the period from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010.



Premiere viewing of the Centuries of Humanity Documentary at the Celebration of the 135th anniversary of the Red Cross of Montenegro. Photo: Red Cross of Montenegro

In brief

Programme purpose: All programmes and activities of the Red Cross of Montenegro are aligned and contribute to the Strategy 2020 aiming to improve the lives and to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable people through disaster management, health and care, organizational development, and focus on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

Programme summary: The International Federation continues to support the Red Cross of Serbia its efforts to provide efficient and quality services to the most vulnerable groups within following programmes:

- **Disaster management** (In addition to the ongoing preparedness activities, dealing with coordination among stakeholders at local level, the Federation provided support for activities aimed at people affected by severe floods.)
- **Health and care** (The focus is on HIV and AIDS as well as Voluntary Blood Donation activities.)
- **Organizational development** (The focus is on developing sustainable systems, procedures and increasing the staff's capacities.)
- **Principles and values** (Work with vulnerable populations on their strengthening and integration, as well as advocacy: vulnerable Roma children, young people living with disabilities, older vulnerable people.)

Limited funding dictates that some of the activities have to be postponed until there are means to implement them. The International Federation continues to support the National Society in looking

for new sources of funding to invest into priority areas and achieve planned results.

Financial situation: The total budget for 2010 was CHF 75,000 of which 12% was covered. The total expenses amounted to CHF 8,802 which is approximately 12% of the budget.

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

See also [Montenegro country plan for 2010-2011](#)

No. of people we help: During 2010 a total of 734 people benefited directly from Federation supported programmes. Another 9,080 have been assisted through emergency response activities funded through the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.

January – December 2010 - Montenegro		
Programme	Target groups	People reached
Disaster Management	N/A	0
Health and Care	N/A	0
Organizational Development	N/A	0
Humanitarian Values	Vulnerable Roma children and children living with disabilities	734
Total number of people reached		734

Our partners: Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development contributed as a multilateral donor. Danish, Austrian, Italian and Spanish Red Cross societies have contributed as bilateral donors independently or on programmes coordinated by the Federation. Two ministries were programme partners.

Context

The political situation in Montenegro has been stable with local elections in spring bringing few surprises. Economically the country is feeling the effects of the global financial and economic crisis with unemployment still hovering around 12%. The number of advertised open positions is 32.29% lower than in the same period of the last year. The Gross Domestic Product has decreased by seven percent in 2009 and is only very slowly increasing in 2010. The period of huge foreign investments (especially in real estate) that have fuelled Montenegrin economy until recently has ended and at the moment the experts are talking about the need to increase domestic savings in order to manage international debts and continue economic growth.

The humanitarian situation is largely unchanged with the Roma-Ashkali-Egyptian (RAE) population, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) remaining the most vulnerable. The biggest group of displaced Roma people from Kosovo is still in Konik camp in Podgorica where nearly 2500 people still await durable solution. Return to Kosovo is very slow averaging at ten families per year and integration efforts apparently need to be better integrated.

When it comes to international humanitarian support, the Red Cross of Montenegro has in recent years successfully made a transition from predominantly Federation-channelled funding to a number of bilateral partnership agreements that are in line with the strategic priorities of the National Society as well as the identified needs in the Montenegrin society.

Heavy floods at the beginning of the year demanded Red Cross intervention. Supported through the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund, the Red Cross of Montenegro received CHF 83,930 to support some 1,100 beneficiaries with food, hygiene items, clothes, blankets etc. Detailed report can be read here:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRME002fdr.pdf>

Another two instances of heavy flooding happened near the end of the year with the Red Cross of Montenegro providing assistance to 1350 and 6630 affected people respectively. More details can be found here:

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRME003do.pdf>

and here

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRME004do.pdf>

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster management

Programme purpose:

Reduce the number of deaths injuries and impact from disasters.

No funding was available for these activities. The Federation assisted the National Society in disaster response activities related to heavy floods in the beginning of the year using Disaster Relief Emergency Fund. Some details:

Emergency Activities

Heavy and continuous rainfall in January, lasting for several days, lead to a dramatic increase in the level of water in the Skadar Lake and Bojana River. This resulted in flooding and property damage for people living near the river in the municipality of Ulcinj and in the surrounding areas of the lake including the municipalities of Bar, Cetinje and Golubovci.

CHF 83,930 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross of Montenegro in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,100 persons or 245 households in the municipalities Podgorica, Tuzi, Golubovci, Cetinje, Ulcinj and Bar. According to the assessed needs, the relief items were distributed in two instalments to the same people and in the same quantities. This operation was implemented over three months, and successfully completed in April 2010.

More details: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRME002fdr.pdf>

Heavy rains in November caused floods in central and northern parts of Montenegro, causing severe damage, especially in three municipalities up north. 270 families were evacuated (around 1350 persons), and were in need of basic emergency relief items. The Red Cross of Montenegro assisted the evacuated population completing the operation by the end of February 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by May 2011).

More details: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRME003do.pdf>

Heavy rains during November and December caused floods all over Montenegro. Eleven municipalities are seriously affected at the moment: Ulcinj, Bar, Cetinje, Golubovci, Tuzi, Danilovgrad, Nikšić, Kolasin, Andrijevisa, Berane and Plav. In total 6630 persons (1600 families) have evacuated from their houses in these municipalities. The Red Cross of Montenegro distributed all of its emergency stock to the affected population and put its logistics department at the disposal of all stakeholders who participate in evacuation and response to the situation.

The further response operation was implemented over 3 months, and was completed by the end of March 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (the end of June 2011).

More details: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/10/MDRME004do.pdf>

Constraints or challenges

Due to absence of funds the Federation was forced to postpone the planned activities indefinitely. The national society is still working on bilateral plans with Austrian Red Cross which revolve around increasing the regional capacity for disaster response through equipping and training.

Health and care

Programme purpose

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

There was no funding for these activities.

Organizational development

Programme purpose

Increase the Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

The funding for these activities was extremely limited. The Federation provided technical support in the Organizational Development activities funded from other sources. A Federation representative from Belgrade participated in a workshop dedicated to discussing the priorities of the National Society in the coming period, which was later used as basis for drafting the National Society Strategy 2010-2013, as planned within the three year Intensified Capacity Building project supported financially from the Federation ICB Fund.

Additionally, the Federation supported the national society in producing a documentary film to coincide with the 135th anniversary of the Red Cross of Montenegro. „Centuries of Humanity“ is a story about how the Red Cross in Montenegro was founded, its work throughout three centuries, as well as about Red Cross activities that are being implemented today. The film was produced by a professional studio, chosen through a tender.

The film has two main functions: promotional and educational. Promotionally, it can be used while communicating with different stakeholders (partners, potential donors...) and in that way all the activities and accomplishments of the organization can be presented in a concise manner. It is also a tool for dissemination – spreading the knowledge on the Red Cross of Montenegro and is used in different seminars and trainings organized by the Red Cross.

„Centuries of Humanity“ is bilingual – in Montenegrin and English, which means it can be used both nationally and internationally. It has been also posted on the web site of the Red Cross of Montenegro, making it available to the general public. Its first viewing was part of the 135th anniversary celebration, a ceremonial academy, with participants from the country and abroad. The viewers rated it very positive. Its title, which was also used for the celebration of the Anniversary, relates to the work of the Red Cross of Montenegro, throughout three centuries.

Humanitarian values

Programme purpose

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

Programme component 1: Open kindergarten for Roma and other children from marginalized families/ Work with young people living with disabilities

Component outcome 1: The education and social participation of Roma children and children with disabilities has been improved through continued work with 500 Roma children and children with disabilities as well as their families.

Component outcome 2: The number of Roma children from camp Konik enrolling in primary school and completing basic education, is increased.

Joint programme for Inclusion

The programme is run in Serbia and Montenegro in parallel, managed by a team and with largely the same activities. In Montenegro the programme was implemented in 3 municipalities targeting 249 vulnerable Roma children, one of them being Podgorica where the programme is implemented in the Camps Konik 1 and 2 which are managed by the Montenegro Red Cross Headquarters, and in 6 municipalities targeting 203 children and young people with disabilities during the year. The programme was implemented by 61 Red Cross volunteers supported by 30 Red Cross employees and staff on loan.

Vulnerable Roma children and children and young people with disabilities have actively participated in a great number of various Red Cross activities unrelated to the Joint programme for inclusion together with Red Cross volunteers and other children, which is beneficial in the light of inclusion. Examples of such activities include 'Race for happier childhood', activities implemented during the Children's Week and visits to the elderly citizens on the occasion of the World Day of Elderly Persons.

Here is a breakdown of activities in the part of the programme dealing with vulnerable Roma children:

	Project result	Montenegro	
		RCB	Konik
Vulnerable Roma children	Completed one year education support in mentor classes	95	
		25	70
	Enrolled into the formal preschool	NA	
		NA	NA
	Enrolled into the first grade of elementary school	109	
	10	99	
	Passed to the next grade of elementary school	41	
		3	38
Total:		245	

Beneficiaries	Montenegro	
	RCB	Konik
Mentor classes	105	
	10	95
Preschool preparatory programme	91	
	19	72
Homework support classes	53	
	21	32
Total number of children	249	
	50	199

Beneficiaries	Montenegro	
	RCB	Konik
Programme for parents	131	
	25	106
Total number of beneficiaries	380	
	75	305

Key segments of service delivery for vulnerable Roma children included:

- Mentor classes: support to preschool children (age 3-6) to enrol into the formal preschool preparatory programme was implemented by 3 RC branches and in the Konik Camps targeting 105 vulnerable Roma children in Montenegro, out of which 95 live in the Konik Camps housing displaced Roma from Kosovo;
- Preschool preparatory programme: in communities where the capacities of formal preschool institutions or accessibility for vulnerable Roma children are limited, the Red Cross branches provided auxiliary programmes. This was done by 3 RC branches and in the Konik Camps targeting 91 vulnerable Roma children in Montenegro, out of which 72 live in the Konik Camps;
- Homework support classes: support to vulnerable Roma pupils in elementary school was provided by 3 RC branches and in the Konik Camps targeting 53 vulnerable Roma children in Montenegro, out of which 32 live in the Konik Camps.
- Programme for parents: currently organised in the form of parents meetings and thematic workshops based on the local needs, this programme was implemented by 2 RC branches and in the Konik Camps in Montenegro encompassing 131 parents out of which 106 parents were from the Konik Camps.

Camp Konik

The Konik Camp 1 and 2 and the nearest surrounding area, with 2,500 Roma displaced from Kosovo and Metohija in 1999, is recognised as a project of national importance by the Government of Montenegro. Numerous particularities related to the camp and close involvement of the Government call for specific attention and unique approaches in including the children of the camps into the educational system. At present, the following activities are implemented:

- Inclusive education for displaced Roma children: In 2008 a pilot project furthering inclusive education for these children was initiated by Montenegro Red Cross, the Ministry of Education and Science, UNICEF and local Roma NGOs.
- A total of 45 Roma children from the Konik Camps were enrolled into five mainstream schools in Podgorica town – instead of the segregated school located in the camps which is otherwise the most common choice by parents. Through this activity, 16 children completed the first grade and all 16 have continued the second grade in September, while 22 have continued to the third grade. In addition, 7 new children have been enrolled into the two public schools in September.
- Second chance education: In Camp Konik, literacy training classes were carried out for youth who dropped out of the formal education system or never started schooling. The coordinator of the camp reported that there is a huge interest for this programme among Roma youth. In this period the activity targeted 18 pupils who were supported in preparations for official exams (scheduled for January 2011) equivalent to grades in the formal elementary education system. Four persons were trained to achieve basic functional literacy and writing skills. During this period most costs related to this activity were covered by other funding sources.
- Language classes: Furthermore, language classes were organised for 20 children aged 5-6 years, as the camp inhabitants predominantly speak Albanian or Roma language only. The activity aims to support the children in overcoming the language barrier when they enrol into the formal education system.

In addition to this, the beneficiaries of the programme were provided with meals during the activities, school material supplies and hygiene kits, as well as with New Year presents delivered by 'Santa Claus'.

Service delivery for children and young people with disabilities in progress

Key segments of service delivery for the vulnerable children and young people with disabilities included various activities in the form of interactive workshops aiming to:

- Stimulate social development and inclusion;
- Help beneficiaries acquire practical life skills;
- Stimulate intellectual development;
- Stimulate perception and fine motorics;
- Improve skills that are relevant for active job seeking; and
- Support the parents.

Here is an overview of the four segments of work with children and young people with disabilities:

- C/YPWD attending regular schools who are supported to complete primary and secondary education through the homework support classes (13.00% of all children and young people with disabilities encompassed by the project);
- C/YPWD who attend schools for pupils with disabilities who are supported to complete primary and secondary education through the homework support classes (54.37% of all children and young people with disabilities encompassed by the project);
- C/YPWD outside the education system who are supported to acquire compensatory education and life skills necessary to achieve appropriate level of independent functioning related to the present disability through various training programmes and workshops (28.25% of all children and young people with disabilities encompassed by the project);
- YPWD on the job market who are supported to acquire job seeking skills through various training programmes and workshops (4.38% of all children and young people with disabilities encompassed by the project).

The current breakdown of beneficiaries of the project is as follows:

Beneficiaries	Montenegro
C/YPWD who attend regular schools	25
C/YPWD who attend schools for pupils with disabilities	125
C/YPWD outside the education system	53
YPWD on the job market	-
Total number of children	203
Programme for parents	65
Total number of beneficiaries	268

Development

Following the development of the concept paper for the Promotion of Human Values project for the Red Cross of Montenegro, a group of six representatives from Montenegro visited the Red Cross of Serbia in December to further learn about the project and its practical implementation in the field. A director of the Red

Cross youth of the region of Asturias, Spain, has enriched the knowledge sharing by presenting the work of the Spanish Red Cross in this field.

Aligning views on Advocacy

A brainstorming meeting was organised for the project team to align the views on Advocacy and define elements for the Guidelines for implementation. A general consensus was reached on high importance of advocacy component for the programme and focus on the long term achievements in this field. Concrete examples from the field, hands-on experiences and effective practices need to be identified and shared within the National Red Cross Societies. A draft guideline containing definition of advocacy, objectives, tools and an outline of the process for implementation is under development.

Training on Public Relations and Lobbying for the project team members

Preparations for the organisation of an in-house training for eight project team members began in this implementation period. The training was planned to be conducted in end January 2011 and is seen as an asset in developing the advocacy platform for the Red Cross.

Local advocacy initiatives in continuum

A number of implementing Red Cross branches have carried out various events related to inclusion of marginalised groups drawing attention of general public, local institutions and media both in Serbia and in Montenegro. Examples include public exhibitions of children's artwork about children's rights in the Promotion of human values project during the Children's Week and a public photo exhibition with the slogan 'Tolerance is cool'.

Standardisation paper for Montenegro on the way

Development of the standardisation paper for the programme in Montenegro is in progress. A workshop was organised to gather the inputs from the staff working directly with vulnerable Roma children and children and young people with disabilities in Montenegro. Following the workshop, the first draft standardisation paper was developed outlining the objectives, working models and optimal standards of the local projects for the vulnerable Roma children, children and young people with disabilities and their parents. The models described allow sufficient level of flexibility that was required to adapt the projects to the local context of targeted municipalities, utilisation of available local resources and effective allocation of available funds for the local projects. The standards include the size of the group per facilitator, weekly dynamics, methods and techniques of work as well as the required competences of facilitators. Furthermore, the document provides the framework of educational activities and describes the roles of various staff engaged in the implementation of the project. Recommendations from the process of revision of the Red Cross project logframe within the Joint programme and a desk study of the key relevant Government documents were taken into the account while preparing the first draft. Consultations with the staff of the implementing Red Cross branches to finalise the paper was planned for February 2011.

Development of Promotion of Human Values project for Montenegro in progress

Following the Promotion of Human Values workshop that took place in June, the concept paper for the project in Montenegro has been produced upon consultations with participants of the workshop and with assistance of the Red Cross of Serbia, Spanish Red Cross and the Federation Representation. Besides the concept paper, a plan of action and a budget were developed and work started to print the manual.

Revised monitoring tools fully in use

Following the recommendations of the Assessment of Monitoring and Evaluation Tools done in December 2009, a set of monitoring tools and reporting templates has been revised and improved. They have been in use in Serbia since February 2010, while in Montenegro use of the tools started in October following the training on Planning, monitoring and reporting.

Coordination and management

Joint planning and progress monitoring completed

A workshop for the partners in implementation of the Joint programme for inclusion was organized by the Swiss Cooperation Office in September for the purpose of planning and progress monitoring. Besides that, the programme of the workshop also included planning of joint activities for 2011 and facilitation of the impact monitoring as a new requirement in reporting on the programme.

Preparations for the possible next phase

A meeting of senior managers of the Danish Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the International Federation took place in November to prepare and make initial arrangements for a meeting of the Red Cross Family in order to align the views and conduct the preparations for the possible next phase of implementation of the Joint programme for Inclusion.

External financial review completed

External financial review has been completed in this implementation period. The review was conducted by BDO Auditing agency hired by the Swiss Cooperation Office. Audit reports have been issued for the International Federation, the Danish Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross.

VAT exemption resolved

The matter of VAT exemption has been resolved in this implementation period, both in Serbia and in Montenegro.

Achievements

The vulnerability of Roma children and young people living with disabilities is reduced through their systematic integration into the mainstream society, support in adopting necessary social skills and knowledge, as well as through continuing work with their families, peers and general population.

Constraints or challenges

There were slight deviations from the Plan of Action in implementation of some activities due to prioritisation to implement some joint activities. However, these will not jeopardise the final outcomes of the programme.

Working in partnership

The Red Cross of Montenegro worked in partnership with the Federation and received support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation through the Federation secretariat plan. Bilaterally the Danish and Spanish Red Cross societies supported the National Society in the activities listed in the annual plan and Italian and Austrian Red Cross societies supported the Home Care programme that was until recently supported through the Annual Plan and the Federation but is now completely planned and managed by the Red Cross of Montenegro in cooperation with partners. The NGO Pomoć Deci and UNICEF were partners in the field of humanitarian values.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The work with vulnerable populations in Montenegro and efforts to ensure a community-wide response to community needs is in line with the Global Agenda goals and its emphasis on preventing deaths and illnesses as well as building communities' capacities to combat their own vulnerability.

Besides being aligned with Strategy 2020 programme components are compatible with local and regional initiatives such as the Decade of Roma Inclusion and the Poverty Reduction Strategies. Work towards disaster preparedness pursues the Global Agenda goal of reducing the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters, a much needed endeavour in the country as disasters, both natural and man-made, seem to become more frequent. All programmes have gender as an integrated and important component. Within disaster preparedness the psychosocial component puts special emphasis on gender to ensure that the needs of each family member are adequately assessed and met.

Looking ahead

The current funding situation allows the federation to be directly involved only with activities funded by SDC. It will continue providing technical support and looking for alternative funding opportunities to support other priority areas included in the country plan.

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>The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.
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