

Mid-Year report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Montenegro Appeal No. MAAME001

31 August 2010

This report covers the period
from 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2010.



Distribution of food and hygiene items in Ulcinj, 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 Global Agenda goals and 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 limited funding meant that the scope of Federation supported activities was very limited. Apart from the activities within the humanitarian values programme targeting Roma and young people with disabilities where the Federation had direct input, assisting in development and monitoring, the only other participation of the Federation was linked to the Intensified Capacity Building project that the National Society is running with the funds from the Geneva ICB fund and the emergency response to floods that was supported through the Federation Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.

The work with vulnerable Roma and people living with disabilities was within the framework of the Joint Project between the Red Cross of Montenegro and the Red Cross of Serbia as well as Spanish Red Cross, Danish red Cross and Federation as partners. It covered 685 people with a number of developmental, supportive and advocacy activities, while the emergency response to floods reached

1,100 people.

Financial situation: The total budget for 2010 is CHF 75,000 of which 2% was covered. The total expenses amounted to CHF 706 which is approximately 1% 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 the first half of 2010 a total of 658 people benefited directly from Federation supported programmes. Another 1,100 have been assisted through emergency Response activities funded through the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.

January – June 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 and people living with disabilities	685
Total number of people reached		685

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>

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>

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.

There was no funding for these activities. 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.

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

Work with vulnerable Roma children and parents

In this period, 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 Camp targeting 101 vulnerable Roma children, out of which 90 live in the Konik Camp;
- 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 replacement programmes. This was done by 3 RC branches and in the Konik Camp targeting 79 vulnerable Roma children, out of which 60 live in the Konik Camp;
- Homework support classes: support to vulnerable Roma pupils in elementary school was provided by 3 RC branches and in the Konik Camp targeting 52 vulnerable Roma children, out of which 32 live in the Konik Camp.
- 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 Camp encompassing 136 parents out of which 106 parents were from the Konik Camp.

Beneficiaries	Montenegro	
	RCB	Konik
Mentor classes	101	
	11	90
Preschool preparatory programme	79	
	19	60
Homework support classes	52	
	20	32
Total number of children	232	

	50	182
Programme for parents	136	
	30	106
Total number of beneficiaries	368	
	80	288

Work with young people living with disabilities

There were 205 children and young people with disabilities and 85 parents and siblings included in the programme

Beneficiaries	Montenegro
Children and young people with disabilities	205
Parents of children and young people with disabilities	85
Total:	290

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;
- Support the parents.

Monitoring tools and reporting templates for the implementing Red Cross branches have been revised and consolidated. Six one-day workshops have been organised to introduce the tools to the field staff. It is expected that the new tools will significantly increase the efficiency of data gathering from the field and its analysis at the HQ.

Training of the Montenegro Red Cross staff active in the implementation of the Joint programme for Inclusion has been completed in June. The training programme included:

- **Active teaching programme** for teachers and facilitators aiming to increase and maintain quality of teaching by introducing accredited contemporary teaching methodology to the programme;
- **Planning, Monitoring & Reporting** for coordinators of the programme aiming to improve the quality of planning, monitoring and reporting by introducing the standardised managerial routines to the programme;
- **Participatory community development** for implementing branch staff aiming to facilitate establishing, maintaining and/or improving local cooperation by introducing PCD methodology as a tool for cooperation development;
- **Promotion of Human Values workshop** for representatives of Red Cross staff, volunteers, teachers and school principals aiming to develop the concept for the programme in Montenegro on the basis of experience of the Red Cross of Serbia shared by its staff and volunteers.

Constraints or challenges

Very limited funding, coming from only one donor, means that most of the activities from the annual plan are postponed indefinitely. The Red Cross of Montenegro is thus increasing its bilateral cooperation, working in the same priority areas with support of other partners (e.g. Italian or Austrian Red Cross).

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 the Global Agenda all 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 IFRC 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><i>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.</i></p>	
<p>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.</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 non-violence and peace.

Contact information

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