

Mid-Year report

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Europe Zone

Appeal No. MAA6500110

31/08/2010

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



Distribution of relief goods in flooded areas. Photo: Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina

In brief

Programme outcome: The Europe zone office is guided in its work with Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies by 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:

The recovery from the global financial crisis continued in 2010, but the economic situation of the countries in the region is still fragile. Among developing regions, the Europe and Central Asia region has been the most negatively affected by the global financial crisis, albeit with large variations across the region in the degree of impact.

A number of natural disasters (floods in Tajikistan, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania etc.) as well as other emergency situations (Polio outbreaks in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan etc.) was met with quick and effective response with two deployments of Regional Disaster Response Team members. The **disaster management** training continued with field-level simulations involving other movement and non-movement partners with the RDRT. International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) was the topic of the regional workshop, "Legal preparedness and legislative advocacy for international disaster response" that took place in May in Vienna, gathering representatives from European Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies engaged in disaster management activities. The work on risk

reduction and climate change activities continued in select national Societies.

National Societies in Europe and Central Asia reaffirmed the commitments on **health and social care**, particularly with regard to the scaling up programmes on HIV and AIDS and Tuberculosis under the umbrella of the Global Alliance. A number of societies was active in providing direct assistance to Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis patients (Georgia, Kazakhstan, Armenia...) while trainings on Harm Reduction and HIV/TB advocacy were organised in cooperation with partners outside of the movement. 8th European Regional Conference was organised in April 2010 where one of the issues to discuss was Ageing Population in Europe and where National Societies defined commitments on their programmes aiming for self-empowerment of older people and encouraging active ageing, strengthening their resilience and allowing them to remain autonomous. The globally supported **human pandemic preparedness and response** accelerated projects (AP) and mini-projects were completed in ten countries in Europe.

In **organisational development**, new approaches to training and development are being introduced, such as the Federation learning platform and the volunteer management training e-learning course organised by the Reference Centre for Volunteering. Aspects of volunteering have been studied in the context of emergency operations in Europe Zone. Peer support is one of the key tools for supporting National Societies in their organizational development and capacity building efforts, as exemplified in cooperation between the Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarus Red Cross Societies in proposing a “Volunteer Recruitment and Volunteer Management with Special Focus on Supporting Visiting Nurses” project to the EU with Lithuanian Red Cross being the main applicant. The implementation of the project “From Working Advance to Cash Transfer”, for 11 National Societies, partly funded by the Geneva OD Department, has started with focus on encouraging National Societies to assume responsibilities previously resting with the Federation. Considerable progress has been made by several National Societies in improving their accounting systems, introducing regular external audits, and developing their own fundraising efforts as external funding becomes less predictable. The Europe Zone team have developed a strategic approach towards the private sector, exploring in particular how technical expertise in areas such as finance and management can be mobilised through promotion of corporate social responsibility.

During the period the coordinators for **migration and anti-trafficking** focused on providing technical support, developing proposals for resource mobilisation, promoting networking, and strengthening relationships with governments and external actors. Selected national societies were provided with strategic guidance, technical assistance and targeted support for strengthening their role in the migration field. The Zone office hosted the annual meeting of the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO). At the meeting the Strategy 2020 of the International Federation was presented and some priorities on migration to be addressed within Europe in the coming 3 years were discussed. The Zone office facilitated a study visit scheme whereby national societies from the new EU member states and EU candidate countries in Central Europe could visit other sister national societies in EU with more extensive experience in the migration field. The anti-trafficking coordinator continued to promote awareness, and a number of National Societies initiated new activities in this field or are actively exploring opportunities to do so. More than twenty European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are now active in prevention and assistance measures related to trafficking in human beings, consisting of, primarily, awareness-raising through peer-to-peer education; protection, and the social re-integration of victims.

Financial situation: The total budget for 2010 was CHF 2,090,328. Out of the total budget 54 per cent was covered during the reporting period (including an opening balance). Overall expenditure during the first six months was 79 per cent of received funding.

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

No. of people we have reached: The zone programmes principally support the 52 National Societies of Europe, who, in turn, work with millions of people.

Our partners: The Europe zone office works in close partnership with the National Societies of the

region at all levels, with the existing technical networks, and relevant government ministries, such as health and disaster management bodies. Much emphasis was given to working together more effectively through global and operational alliances. The zone team also worked closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on issues of Movement cooperation, National Society capacity building and programme development. Within the Movement, there has been strong and loyal support from multilateral partners, which include the American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Hungarian government, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross/Norwegian government, Netherlands Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross/Swedish government, the Capacity Building Fund (CBF), and the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Outside of the Movement, the UK's Department for International Development (DfID), German Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) UN OCHA (through the Inter Agency Standing Committee), Eli Lilly Company, Advocacy Partnership (AP), American USAID, the World Health Organization (WHO) and several UN agencies are important partners.

Context

The recovery from the global financial crisis continued in 2010, but the economic situation of the countries in the region is still fragile. Among developing regions, the Europe and Central Asia region has been the most negatively affected by the global financial crisis, albeit with large variations across the region in the degree of impact.

Due to the economic crisis international support for National Societies in Europe Zone has decreased. In this context it is necessary for the National Societies to develop or scale up their capacity to generate resources from domestic sources. An increasing number of National Societies are becoming more aware and conscious of the need to conduct external audits and recognize it as an accountability tool that can be utilized in communication with partners and stakeholders.

Life expectancy is increasing in western Europe. As for the EU people live longer lives due to better health and radically improved health services and treatment in the last several decades. While this is a sign of a more healthy population, fertility and birth rates are decreasing, the average number of children per woman being 1,5. As a consequence the population in western Europe is aging and by 2030 almost 35 million people in EU countries will be 80 years or older. Compared with today's figure of about 19 million aged 80 or more this is a dramatic increase of 84 per cent. The situation in central Asian countries is somewhat different though with fairly young populations where the proportion of people over 60 years is low. However, the trend is changing in this part of the zone as well.

These dramatic demographic changes have a profound impact on the society and mean that active working population (people aged between 14 and 65) is likely to decrease rapidly in the next two decades. People aged 65 or more are one of the most vulnerable groups exposed to poverty and social exclusion. According to the Eurostat statistics in 2008, as much as 19 per cent of people aged 65 or more were at risk of poverty in the EU countries.

HIV infection remains a major public health concern in Europe with evidence of increasing transmission in several European countries. According to WHO, since 2000, the rate of newly diagnosed cases reported per million people has more than doubled, from 44 cases per million in 2000 to 89 per million in 2008. The overall number of AIDS cases has continued to decline in the European region, except in eastern European countries, where it has increased.

The main mode of transmission of HIV in Eastern Europe still remains injecting drug use. In the report *Global Tuberculosis control - epidemiology, strategy, financing*¹, WHO states that Eastern Europe and central Asia is among those regions that will not achieve the Millennium Development Goals regarding Tuberculosis.

¹ http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/en/index.html

Tajikistan experienced its first polio outbreak since 2002 when the country was declared polio free by WHO. Moreover several cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis were reported in Uzbekistan triggering the launch of vaccination campaigns by WHO and UNICEF across the sub-region.

Beginning in the late 1990s and early 2000s, there was near universal agreement among global health experts that an influenza pandemic was looming. There was evidence of at least ten pandemics in the last 300 years. The most recent pandemics had occurred in 1918, 1957 and 1968. It is believed that between 40 and 100 million people died from the 1918 pandemic. By any calculation, that influenza killed more people in a year than the Black Death of the Middle Ages killed in a century; it killed more people in twenty-four weeks than AIDS has killed in 25 years. In 2006, concern that the H5N1 avian influenza would mutate, spread among humans and cause a severe pandemic led several PNS to finance the Federation support of Avian Influenza projects in 13 National Societies.

Fear that an influenza pandemic with virulence similar to that of the 1918 pandemic would overwhelm healthcare systems, shut down schools, banks, stores and government offices, and disrupt transportation, public utilities and humanitarian aid provided the impetus for USAID to fund a global pandemic preparedness program. The Federation as a partner is helping coordinate multiple NGO actors National Societies in at least 20 countries to prepare for a human pandemic.

In Eastern Europe and Central Asia the economic, political and social transformation created shifting needs and new patterns of vulnerability in changing societies that even today influence the activities of the National Societies. Altered social environments require National Societies to re-define themselves, renew their legal base, define new management and governance systems to fit the new liberal (market) system, develop new ways of finding resources and funds, and in general, cope with many new challenges. At the same time, many of these National Societies managed to retain their operational capacity to implement programmes, often with important external support.

Europe was hit by various disasters of different scale, and the number of DREF operations actually doubled compared to the same period in previous years. In the period between January and June 2010 more than CHF 2.5 million was allocated from the Federation Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in Europe and Central Asia to respond to sixteen disasters in 9 countries. Almost 3 million people were reached.

Flooding seems to become more frequent causing more human suffering and material destruction than ever. Out of the sixteen disaster operations nine responded to floods. Heavy rains in May caused huge flooding in Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia and Serbia, but the National Societies involved were able to respond with their own resources. In late June and beginning of July, heavy floods hit Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, Ukraine and Moldova. All four National Societies requested DREF funds for relief operation and replenishment of emergency stocks.

The Central Asia region, and Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in particular, was hardest hit leading to ten separate operations. Operations were launched in both Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan following the civil unrest in southern Kyrgyzstan and the subsequent migration of some 92,000 refugees into Uzbekistan. Owing to the fact that the situation normalized within a relatively short time, most people who fled returned to Kyrgyzstan, confronting the Kyrgyz authorities with a large number of internally displaced persons (IDP).

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme component 1: Disaster management planning
Component outcome 1: Comprehensive Europe-wide disaster management strategy adopted.
Component outcome 2: Regional and zone-level contingency plans developed, fully aligned with country-level plans.

Achievements: Strategic and planning activities are postponed for the second half of the year due to restructuring of the Federation at Zone and regional levels. Some country level contingency plans have been created (e.g. Bulgaria).

Programme component 2: Organisational preparedness

Component outcome 1: Disaster management database scaled up and fully operational in at least 20 National Societies.

Component outcome 2: Regional disaster response teams (RDRT) established and operational in all sub-regions.

Achievements: A Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) disaster simulation took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina in March. 55 RDRT members and 1 Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) member from 16 National Societies took part.² The simulation took place in seven municipalities in the north-eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina which is prone to flooding during spring and autumn. The simulation was prepared by disaster management coordinators from the host National Society and participating National Societies, entity civil protection agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and ICRC. Moreover coordinators from the Federation Europe Zone in Budapest and Belgrade and from ten National Societies facilitated the simulation including field work.

Participants were divided into three teams and for the first time since RDRT simulations are organised, the teams including the observers were placed in separate municipalities and thus physically detached. The teams spent two days in-field where they worked with local Red Cross branch staff and volunteers in assessing needs and meeting with mayors, crisis headquarters of civil protection units, health centres, police, and fire-brigades. Moreover the teams visited affected areas and interacted with local residents. ICRC joined the teams offering support related to tracing in emergencies, restoring of family links and mine awareness. Respect of security rules was particularly monitored as the simulation was carried out close to former frontlines areas which used to be heavily mined during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina 1992-1995. Following the field work the teams gathered and presented their plan of actions.



In March 2010, the Red Cross of Serbia distributed needed materials after the floods in Zajecar. Photo: Federation

Two RDRT members were deployed in January and June respectively. In January one team member was deployed for a 15-day mission to Albania to support the National Society in flood operation relief activities. In June one member joined the FACT mission in Uzbekistan following the influx of refugees following the unrest in southern Kyrgyzstan. The team members successfully completed their missions thus demonstrating not only the importance of RDRT trainings, but also their quality.

International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) was the topic of the regional workshop, "Legal preparedness and legislative advocacy for international disaster response" that took place in May in Vienna. The workshop gathered representatives from European Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies engaged in disaster management activities. The aim of the workshop was to:

- Provide participants with a general understanding of IDRL guidelines and other international and regional instruments for international disaster response;
- Explore how existing legal instruments may be useful as advocacy tools in international relief operations and where gaps remain;

² Albania, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia and Switzerland (FACT member).

- Discuss the role of humanitarian organizations in encouraging better legal preparedness for international disaster assistance.

Programme component 3: Community preparedness / Disaster risk reduction
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Component outcome 1: Risk reduction programming has been supported in selected countries.
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Component outcome 2: Climate change awareness, advocacy and adaptation activities have been scaled up considerably.
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Achievements: The Red Cross societies in Albania, Armenia and Macedonia are very active in disaster risk reduction. Owing to their proven interest and motivation as well as potential for developing strong risk reduction capacities, the National Societies received support from the Norwegian Red Cross for developing risk reduction activities in 2010. Each country received CHF 40,000 for developing community-based risk reduction activities. The activities are expected to be finalized by the end of the year.

The Red Cross Climate Change Center in Hague allocated funds for climate change activities in Armenia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. All three National Societies prepared a plan of action and budget on climate change integration into their other projects/activities and started with implementation.

Constraints or Challenges (Disaster Management): Limited earmarked funding hampered the implementation of activities contributing to the objectives for the Europe Zone disaster management programme. Hence the funding situation allowed the Europe Zone to address organizational preparedness and training and deployment of RDRT members, disaster risk reduction activities in three countries and climate change awareness, advocacy and adaptation activities in three countries.

Health and Care

Programme component 1: HIV and AIDS and Tuberculosis

Component outcome 1: HIV and AIDS and TB programmes have been scaled up through a Global Alliance approach

Achievements: The Italian Red Cross through its Villa Maraini Foundation supported by Europe zone organized two trainings (March and June) on drug related harm reduction in Russian language. Target National Societies were from Belarus, Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

The National Societies of Georgia, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Romania are implementing multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) project and providing direct support to around 200 most vulnerable MDR-TB patients. Activities are supported by Eli Lilly Company through the global programme, and with a bilateral agreement in Armenia.

As part of the Eli Lilly MDR-TB Partnership programme, the Advocacy Partnership (AP), a UK-based charity, conducted a training of trainers' workshop in June, on TB, MDR-TB and TB/HIV advocacy to community based and civil society organisations working in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. National Societies from Armenia, Georgia, Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan were present on the training.

Regarding the Federation European conference, National Societies in Europe and Central Asia, reaffirmed the commitments on health and social care, particularly with regard to the scaling up of our programmes on HIV and TB.

Programme component 2: Community based health and social care programmes

Component outcome 1: Social and home care programmes are supported through advocacy and resource mobilisation, and are increasingly addressing social determinants of health.
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Component outcome 2: The specific needs and capacities of the ageing population are more fully taken into account in the design of health and care programme approaches
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Achievements: On 13 April 2010, 42 National Societies met in Vienna, Austria in the frame of the 8th European Regional Conference (13-16 April 2010). One of the issues to discuss was Ageing Population in Europe. National Societies defined commitments on their programmes aiming for self-empowerment of older people and encouraging active ageing, strengthening their resilience and allowing them to remain autonomous. National Societies will advocate for the inclusion of older people in economic, social and cultural life, and for life-long learning. Special emphasis was given to strengthen the solidarity between younger and older people to mutual benefit, and promotion of the intergenerational dialogue and cooperation. Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies will contribute to building a positive image of ageing, and will recognize older people as an important resource for society.

The follow up of the conference includes regular discussion on National Societies' priorities and inclusion of older people in the Red Cross Red Crescent programs.

Programme component 3: Pandemic preparedness / Emergency health
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Component outcome 1: Pandemic preparedness has been strengthened in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ukraine and other selected priority countries.
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Component outcome 2: Access to curative and preventive health services in emergency situations has been improved

Achievements: In 2010, the globally supported human pandemic preparedness and response accelerated projects (AP) and mini-projects were completed in ten countries in Europe (Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan) while projects are still being implemented in four National Societies including Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

The accelerated projects focused on effective country planning, advocacy and communication, training, reduction of transmission and care for the ill. Achievements toward objectives include:

- *Effective country planning:* Preparedness and response plans were coordinated with key stakeholders and relationships were developed with ministries in targeted countries. Key partners were ministries of health, WHO and USAID.
- *Advocacy and communication:* Awareness materials and messages were adapted and disseminated in each country. More than 200,000 posters, 4,000 booklets, 200,000 calendars were printed and distributed. Public awareness campaigns disseminating the five key prevention messages were carried out by volunteers in all 14 countries.
- *Training:* Training of trainers for all branches or districts in 10 National Societies were held. In total 300 trainers and volunteers were trained in pandemic interventions.
- *Reduction of transmission:* The adaption of life-saving messages took place in each National Society and 900 volunteers were trained on how to disseminate the messages.
- *Care for the ill:* The role of volunteers and health facilities and a plan for personal protective equipment were defined. Moreover guidance on contingency care was provided in addition to trainings on how to protect volunteers involved in interventions. The e-learning platform (that was developed) proved to be a unique and effective opportunity for staff, volunteers and the public to learn about protection during a pandemic.

A project review was carried out and a survey conducted among randomly selected National Societies. These studies showed that the project successfully assisted the National Societies in preparing and responding to pandemics. Moreover the programme increased relations with national governments through National Societies becoming members of emergency committees and strengthen partnerships among stakeholders. Finally the visibility of the Red Cross and Red Crescent improved through the activities provided.

Programme component 4: Technical support and networking
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Component outcome 1: Technical assistance, peer support and networking for key health and care priorities – including first aid, road safety, psychological support and voluntary blood donation – have been enhanced.

Achievements: Through the global program, The Federation supported Macedonia, Albania and Russia Red Cross Societies in celebrating the World blood donor day 2010. The focus was on Young Donors - with the slogan: "New blood for the world".

Polio outbreak in Central Asia was followed by strong action from National Societies of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Europe Zone supported developing materials, building response capacities and promoting partnerships at local level.

Following the abrupt violent situation in Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia, Europe zone has coordinated response to psychosocial needs of the vulnerable population in Kyrgyzstan. In support to the National Society, Psychosocial Support Programme (PSP) delegate was selected, and plan of action (comprising of assessment on PSP needs, capacity building of the National Society and strategic planning) developed. In support of Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society, ENPS and the Federation reference centre took the lead role.

Constraints or Challenges (Health and Care):

The main constraint remains the low financial resources for the Red Cross Red Crescent HIV activities. The resource mobilization efforts are still much too focused on Movement partners and there is not enough work being done on targeting external partners.

The pandemic project ran into deficit at the global level which directly affected the amount of funding available. This resulted in requests for non-cost project extensions being rejected and reduction in already approved country budgets. Other challenges during the project implementation included:

- With the exception of the Hungarian Red Cross work towards developing *business continuity plans* did not take place or has not been reported to the Federation. This demonstrates a lack of understanding of the importance of developing a plan or a view that a business contingency plan would not add value to already developed disaster management contingency plans. It is possible that more National Societies have done some work on their respective business continuity plans, albeit none of them informed the Federation about it, keeping them confidential.
- In terms of food security and livelihood none of the targeted National Societies identified and developed strategies, guidance and activities on protection and provision of food in pandemic situations. Similar gaps were reported in other zones.
- Two countries, Moldova and Tajikistan have not yet submitted their final project reports.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

Programme component 1: Sustainable systems, procedures and staff

Component outcome 1: National Society human resource development and volunteer management have been strengthened.

Component outcome 2: An effective framework for peer support and capacity building has been established.

Achievements: Investing in people continued to be a key priority. Some National Societies emphasised the need for development of human resource strategies, as well as more effective volunteer management systems.

- National Societies in Macedonia and Montenegro implement Intensified Capacity Building Plans, resulting in significant improvements in quality of planning and reporting;
- Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent is introducing improvements in personal development review system, supported by the British Red Cross;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina is starting the process of reorganisation of human resource structure at the National Society headquarters with initial steps related to job analysis questionnaire.

High turnover of staff in some National Societies is still a serious issue. Changing volunteering trends continue to impact National Societies. New approaches to training and development are

being introduced, such as the Federation learning platform that was widely disseminated and promoted in the Europe Zone, and the volunteer management training e-learning course organised by the Reference Centre for Volunteering, hosted by the Spanish and British Red Cross. Aspects of volunteering have been studied in the context of emergency operations in Europe Zone. Federation support to the European Network for the Development of Volunteering (ENDOV) is provided continuously and inputs from Europe Zone are highly appreciated.

The Europe zone team has identified peer support as one of the key tools for supporting National Societies in their organizational development and capacity building efforts. As an example to the peer support initiative the cooperation between the Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarus Red Cross Societies should be mentioned as they have submitted application for “Volunteer Recruitment and Volunteer Management with Special Focus on Supporting Visiting Nurses” to the EU with Lithuanian Red Cross being the main applicant.

Bulgarian Red Cross experience in diversifying income sources has been shared to improve communication and fundraising capacity of Armenia Red Cross, and a plan of action has been prepared according to the recommendations.

The specific organisational development support (SOS), has been provided in the areas of capacity building and fundraising to the following National Societies: Russia – internal communication project, Armenia – communication and fundraising, Malta – communication and International Humanitarian Laws, Moldova – participatory community development approaches in 5 branches with focus on community approaches with involvement of stakeholders. These projects were either implemented by using gained experience, or knowledge has been incorporated to annual operational plans and subsequently to the Federation support plans following decision of the National Society.

Technical support provided by the Federation has been linked to the needs of the National Societies in terms of volume of engagement and type of support. Tailored organisational development interventions for addressing specific organisational needs in areas such as volunteer management, finance development, strategic planning, statutes revision or general governance and management had been provided to a wide range of Societies (Romania, Bulgaria, Italy, Malta, Hungary, Poland, Russia, Latvia, Belarus, Slovakia).

On the global level the OD Department at the Geneva Federation Secretariat is conducting an extensive capacity building study, supported by the American Red Cross, involving 30-40 National Societies world-wide (6 from Europe Zone), implemented by the consultancy company “Root change”. The Europe Zone OD coordinator was part of the process in defining the appropriate approach on developing capacity building. The method of the survey is based on self-assessment and is aligned to the decisions of the General Assembly and the adoption of Strategy 2020. Self-assessment is followed by a peer validation process where sister Societies (and the Federation in some cases) check the relevance of evidences provided by the given National Society.

The implementation of the project “From Working Advance to Cash Transfer”, for 11 National Societies, partly funded by the Geneva OD Department, has started with focus on encouraging National Societies to assume responsibilities previously resting with the Federation. Five Europe Zone National Societies are in the project, have signed agreements on implementing the process and three of them (Albania, Armenia and Macedonia) have already started the pilot phase of cash transfer.

Programme component 2: Financial sustainability
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Component outcome 1: National Societies have been supported effectively in strengthening their resource mobilisation capacity
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Achievements The delivery of relevant humanitarian services in the National Societies needs to be accompanied by transparent financial management and reporting systems. Considerable progress has been made by several National Societies in improving their accounting systems, introducing regular external audits, and developing their own fundraising efforts as external funding

becomes less predictable. Efforts will continue in this regard, with a strong emphasis on ensuring transparency and strengthened financial management in all aspects.

The Europe Zone team have developed a strategic approach towards the private sector, exploring in particular how technical expertise in areas such as finance and management can be mobilised through promotion of corporate social responsibility.

Bulgarian Red Cross has in close cooperation with Europe Zone office finalized the application to the VELUX Foundation for a four-year project, seeking funding of EUR 1,200,000, and the final negotiation between the Foundation and the Federation, as the main applicant, will take place in August.

The team in Europe Zone has contributed to the negotiations between the Federation Secretariat and Procter & Gamble, aiming to support youth projects in Eastern Europe. Mapping of existing youth projects has been conducted and submitted to Geneva.

Hay Company and Gaz De France have expressed their wish to contribute to activities in Romania through corporate social responsibility initiative with the involvement of Belgian Red Cross. This occasion provides excellent opportunities to improve leadership and management skills of middle managers of these two companies. The first visit of the companies' representatives took place in June, and Belgian and Romanian Red Cross are preparing a joint event in October, to work on the already running Bank Food project, as a case study, for two weeks, for the desired benefit of both partners.

Programme component 3: Programme development and management
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Component outcome 1: Support for European Red Cross Youth programmes has been scaled up.

Component outcome 2: Approaches & tools for community programming have been consolidated.
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Achievements: Following the adoption of the “Youth on the Move” declaration in Solferino, support for the existing youth networks became a high priority for the team in Europe Zone. In addition, the Europe Conference, held in Vienna in April, again highlighted the important role of youth in the National Societies. Taking into consideration two major themes of the Conference, multiculturalism and ageing population, the role of youth in implementing Vienna commitments is indispensable.

Prior to the Europe Conference, the European Coordination Meeting was held in Vienna, to exchange experience and adopt the specific commitments of the Europe-wide youth network.

The Europe Zone team has also supported the Mediterranean youth camp Atlantis, organised by the permanent office of the Mediterranean conference (consisting of National Societies from the Mediterranean area). This event was an excellent opportunity for linking youth networks across two Zones.

Over recent years the Participatory Community Development (PCD) programmatic approach and related tools have been developed into a recognised and effective way of promoting community participation and empowerment of socially excluded groups. The PCD “portfolio” has been expanded to other geographical and programmatic areas, and will be further consolidated. Synergy with other tools, such as vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), and the Better Programming Initiative, will be explored in post-conflict settings.

Constraints or Challenges

None

Principles and Values

Programme component: Migration:
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Component outcome 1: Migration programming in the region has been scaled up and aligned with the Federation Policy on Migration with appropriate technical support.

Component outcome 2: Strategies for working along the migratory trails between national societies in the region are identified and developed with the support of the Federation.

Component outcome 3: Cross-regional initiatives for addressing the humanitarian needs of migrants, involving National Societies from both Europe and other zones are identified and supported.

Programme component: Anti-trafficking

Component outcome: Anti-trafficking work is scaled up and supported through an active dedicated network.

Achievements

During the period both coordinators for migration and anti-trafficking focused on providing technical support, developing proposals for resource mobilisation, promoting networking, and strengthening relationships with governments and external actors.

Selected national societies (in Central Europe – the Romanian Red Cross and Hungarian Red Cross, in Eastern Europe – Russian and Ukrainian Red Cross) were provided with **strategic guidance, technical assistance and targeted support** for strengthening their role in the migration field. A programme for assisting vulnerable migrants in the Russian Federation was designed together with the Russian Red Cross and UNHCR and submitted for funding.

The Zone office hosted the annual meeting of the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (**PERCO**). At the meeting the Strategy 2020 of the International Federation was presented and some priorities on migration to be addressed within Europe in the coming 3 years were discussed. At the end of the meeting the Platform adopted a declaration on the planned downsizing of the support of the International Federation for the national societies' migration related activities. National Societies from the region have been actively encouraged to become members of the PERCO network, and three new national societies – the Czech Red Cross, the Romanian Red Cross and the Hungarian Red Cross officially applied for membership. Contacts between the network in Central Asia and PERCO were also facilitated and supported. The EU Red Cross Youth Network was provided with a continuous support to draft a statement on the rights of migrants.

With funds provided by the Spanish Red Cross, the Zone office facilitated a **study visit scheme** whereby national societies from the new EU member states and EU candidate countries in Central Europe (Poland, Romania, Croatia, Hungary, Czech Republic) could visit other sister national societies in EU with more extensive experience in the migration field. The main aim of the initiative was to facilitate transfer of expertise on migration issues to the national societies covered and encourage them to further develop their support to vulnerable migrants. Four of the visits took place in June and one will take place in September. A follow-up meeting is planned for September as well.

The Zone office provided support to the conference “**Positive Images**” of the British Red Cross held in Budapest with participation of more than 12 national societies from the EU countries, as well as from other organisations and academic institutions.

Contact persons on migration were identified within each national society in the region to facilitate and support cooperation. The list was distributed to all members in the region.

The **anti-trafficking** coordinator continued to promote awareness, and a number of National Societies initiated new activities in this field or are actively exploring opportunities to do so. More than twenty European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are now active in prevention and assistance measures related to trafficking in human beings, consisting of, primarily, awareness-raising through peer-to-peer education; protection, and the social re-integration of victims. Several project proposals were developed and submitted, with decisions expected later in the year.

The next meeting of the anti-trafficking network is expected to be hosted by the Serbian Red Cross, supported by the Danish Red Cross, in the autumn of 2010.

Constraints or Challenges (Principles and Values)

The Anti-Trafficking Network Facilitator and the Migration Coordinator both finished their missions with the Europe Zone office, due to urgent funding constraints. Before their departure several funding applications were finalised as agreed. Should any of these be successful there is a need to decide on options for technical support in both fields, as this will likely need to be sourced elsewhere. A meeting to bring together experiences during the recent exchange visits between 10 National Societies will be held in September, and the outgoing migration coordinator has kindly agreed to co-facilitate this pro-bono. The Serbian Red Cross, in cooperation with the Danish Red Cross, is planning to host a meeting in autumn 2010 to discuss the future of the anti-trafficking network of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

Working in partnership

Disaster Management: The cooperation in the area of disaster management continues with:

- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in terms of Regional Disaster Response Team trainings, National Disaster Response Teams trainings and Regional meetings of national Disaster Management coordinators
- Red Cross Climate Centre – climate change projects
- Austrian Red Cross – Regional Disaster Response Team trainings, training sessions on Water/Sanitation and creation of Water/Sanitation teams
- Finnish Red Cross – Regional Disaster Response Team trainings and creation of Europe wide electronic DM database
- German Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross – Regional Disaster Response Team trainings
- Red Cross Red Crescent/EU Disaster Management Working group, Regional Disaster Management coordinators' networks in Central Europe and Southern Caucasus region and Central Asia region
- DPPI, UNOCHA - capacity development in disaster risk reduction in South East Europe
- USAID/OFDA Mission in Budapest

Health and Care: Europe Zone was supporting European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV and AIDS and TB (ERNA) in fulfilling its role as a platform for capacity building and experience exchange. These involve supporting ERNA board meetings in: organization, discussions and decision making, supporting the preparation of ERNA annual meeting (support to ERNA board in preparing the agenda, discussing facilitator and support with promotion among external partners etc.) as well as support for participation of National Societies to ensure balanced presence and information sharing.

First Aid Education European Network (FAEEN) annual meeting took place in June 2010 hosted by the Turkish Red Crescent. On this meeting National Societies representatives from all over Europe, have agreed that the development of first aid education and services will be based on the analysis of changing trends and needs in their countries. Red Cross Red Crescent will improve the quality management and will implement the 2010 Red Cross Red Crescent guidelines on first aid and resuscitation. National Societies have agreed to increase the Network's involvement at the scientific level and reinforce the sharing of knowledge and information. FAEEN will work on further development of the first aid programmes.

At the **First Aid Convention in Europe (FACE) 2010** first aid competition a total of 27 FA teams from 26 countries participated. The Red Cross of Serbia managed the event excellently, with involvement of almost 400 volunteers all over the country. British Red Cross won the first place, followed by Slovenia and Ireland.

The World Health Organization (Europe regional office) organized a governmental meeting on **Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donors** for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The workshop

clearly outlined Governmental commitments to 100% VNRBD and increased involvement of Civil Society Organisations and Red Cross Red Crescent.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Disaster Management

- The capacity and expertise of National Societies' Disaster Management coordinators and Regional Disaster Response Team members is tested during trainings, simulations and disaster response operations in their countries and missions within the region.
- The Sphere standards and Code of Conduct in disaster relief are part of all Disaster Management trainings and simulations. The National Societies use these standards in their disaster response operations.
- Gender equality is promoted in the Disaster Management programme, gender balance being one of the pre-conditions that National Societies have to take into consideration when they choose candidates for Disaster Management trainings. As a result, 30% of participants in the last two Regional Disaster Response Team trainings were female.
- Beneficiary satisfaction surveys became a regular part of each operation supported by the Federation through Disaster Relief Emergency Fund or Emergency Appeal.

Looking ahead

The strategic reviews of Federation support to the National Societies in Central Asia, Belarus, Russia, Moldova and Ukraine will inform the future priorities for support as well as the further alignment of country and regional presence. Changes in setup and structure of Federation presence will be introduced gradually in close consultation with stakeholders concerned.

The Europe Zone disaster management team has recently been strengthened with two staff, enabling a further scale-up of activities over the coming period. A full-time delegate will focus particularly on shelter, while a disaster response and early recovery delegate will work specifically on civil protection issues and restoring family links in a job shared between Geneva and Budapest.

The Europe Zone office will continue to support and develop existing Disaster Management structures and networks, to strengthen the Regional Disaster Response Team as well as the National Societies' disaster response mechanisms in order to increase regional and national disaster response capacity. The work on Europe-wide electronic Disaster Management database is continuing until comprehensive information on National Societies' resources, knowledge and experience is incorporated into database. Based on this information, the Europe Zone office will support establishment of peer support and partnership between National Societies in the Europe Zone. The Europe Zone office will also scale up risk reduction and community based disaster preparedness activities as well as International Disaster Response Law and climate change.

For later in the year the European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV and AIDS and TB (ERNA) is planning one workshop on project planning processes, based on the Europe zone training needs assessment from 2009. Planned for the second half of 2010, the proposed workshop will focus on planning HIV and AIDS projects and programmes. It will help strengthen National Societies in areas of implementation and fundraising with donors outside of the Movement, especially at national level. The global alliance approach will be used as a mechanism of choice to ensure quality and achieve scaling-up in the field of HIV and AIDS and TB.

Depending on the outcome of funding applications in the areas of migration and anti-trafficking the zone team will decide on the most appropriate setup for technical support in this area.

How we work

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

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Anitta Underlin, Head of Zone, Budapest, phone: +36 1 8884 501; fax: +36 1 336 1516; email: anitta.underlin@ifrc.org
- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Leon Prop, Head of Operations, Budapest, phone: +36 1 8884 502; fax: +36 1 336 1516; email: leon.prop@ifrc.org

Annex 1: Disasters that required international support during the period January-June 2010:

No.	Country	Type of disaster	Response type and size (CHF)	Launch (month)	Duration (months)	No. of beneficiaries*
1	Montenegro	Floods	DREF 83,930	January	3	1,100
2	Albania	Floods	DREF 302,500	January	3	8,800 (2,200)
3	Tajikistan	Earthquake	DREF 132,022	January	4	700 (140)*
4	Kazakhstan	Floods	DREF 134,552	March	3	1,300
5	Serbia	Floods	DREF 286,219	March	6	3,150
6	Tajikistan	Mudslides and Floods	DREF 134,995 EA 892,624	April 2009	14	4,320
7	Russian Federation	Floods	DREF 76,059	April	3,5	4,400 (1,100)
8	Tajikistan	Floods	DREF 107,849	April	4	600 (120)*
9	Tajikistan	Polio outbreak	DREF 260,221	April	3	2,692,500
10	Tajikistan	Floods	DREF 184,879	May	4	1,200 (200)*
11	Russian Federation	Mine blast	DREF 29,348	May	6	250
12	Azerbaijan	Floods	DREF 171,321	May	4	2,195
13	Kyrgyzstan	Mudslides	DREF 100,963	June	4	2,835
14	Kyrgyzstan	Civil unrest	DREF 171,625 EA 965,069	June	11	5,265
15	Kyrgyzstan	Polio outbreak	DREF 81,579	June	3	227,000
16	Uzbekistan	Population movement	DREF 300,000 EA 1,166,159	June	6	24,000
	TOTAL	7 types of disasters	DREF 2,558,062	6 months	Average 5,1	Approximately 2,979,615