

Mid-Year report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Moldova

Appeal No. MAAMD002

31 August 2010

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



Red Cross visiting nurse assisting a woman in her home in Moldova. Photo: Moldova Red Cross

In brief

Programme outcome: The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims: *save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises; enable healthy and safe living; and promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.*

Programme(s) summary: In the first six months of 2010 the Moldova Red Cross received funding for health and care, and National Society development. In health and care the National Society focused on pandemic influenza (H2P) preparedness and response, visiting nurses service, HIV and AIDS, and first aid

The National Society received funds from IFRC to run a pilot project focusing on pandemic influenza (H2P) preparedness and response. This contributed to strengthening the health preparedness and response capacity of the National Society. From November 2009 to April 2010 totally 3,482 people were reached through activities and services by visiting nurses. A total of 1,580 persons benefited from medical assistance and psychosocial support. Additionally 1,902 persons received social assistance. In March the Glodeni branch organized a round table meeting on the campaign "Our world. Your move." Totally 20 visiting nurses, volunteers and local authorities took part. In HIV and AIDS the National Society aimed to raise the awareness among the population. In first-aid, the Estonian Red Cross facilitated training for trainers in April, with the participation of 13 volunteers and staff.

In National Society development a Federation special advisor started his mission in the National Society in June. The key task for the advisor is to support capacity building processes while at the same time being integrated with the National Society. At the end of June IFRC granted the National Society funding through the Federation Capacity Building Fund (CBF) to support the creation and strengthening of partnerships with local communities in order to build community capacity to address their own needs. It is promising that the National Society improved its financial reporting capacity and now met the criteria by international donors. Narrative reports made substantial progress as well.

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget is CHF 196,706 (USD 191,274 or EUR 149,806) of which CHF 186,234 (95 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). The 2010 budget was increased due to increased funding from initially CHF 100,000. Expenditure was CHF 54,985. Expenditure against budget was 28 per cent and expenditure against funding was 30 per cent. [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

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

No. of people we have reached:

| Programme | People reached |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Health and Care | 11,285 |
| National Society Development | 13 |
| Principles and Values | 53 |
| Total number of people reached | 11,351 |

Our partners: The Italian Red Cross and DfiD provided support through IFRC to the Moldova country plan. Support and cooperation also came from the Japanese Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and United Arab Emirates Red Crescent. Moreover the Moldova Red Cross works closely with the Centre for Civil Protection and Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Protection and local authorities.

Context

After more than 15 years of transition, the Republic of Moldova is still in the process of territorial consolidation, grappling with high unemployment, poor investment climate, an enormous foreign debt and pervasive corruption. The global financial crisis has worsened the economic situation of the vulnerable people. According to local Red Cross branches, the number of people requesting Moldova Red Cross assistance has increased. The most affected are older people, people with disabilities, multi-child families, single-parent families and people working in the construction industry who lost their jobs. As many as three out of four Moldovans are living in poverty with 45 per cent of the inhabitants in rural areas being extremely poor.

Widespread poverty and lack of job opportunities are push factors for labour migration; of the nation's 4.3 million citizens, as many as one million Moldovan nationals are working abroad. Labour migration is also a main source of income for many and according to the World Bank Moldova had the largest share of remittances as a percentage of GDP in 2007. However, due to the economic crisis the amount decreased significantly at the end of 2008. Many emigrants are women who are sometimes duped into, or knowingly enter the sex trade. Men are trafficked mainly into construction work. The high emigration rate has led to whole villages and towns experiencing a "missing generation" where grandparents raise children, who themselves emigrate.

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

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

The Moldovan population is vulnerability to disasters. Moldova is prone to various disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, droughts and floods which affect a significant number of people annually.

Besides that, there are about 320 dangerous chemical plants on the territory of the country that produced 150 accidents in the past 10 years.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

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| Programme component 1: Community and organizational preparedness |
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| Component outcome 1: Disaster management plan is reviewed and updated. |
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| Component outcome 2: The National Society's disaster preparedness and response skills and material resources for emergency relief are strengthened. |
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Achievements: No funding was received for disaster management programme activities which resulted in few achievements towards community and organizational preparedness.

At the end of June the National Society started planning response activities to meet the humanitarian needs following a dramatic increase in the level of water in the Nistru and Prut rivers and the subsequent flooding in six regions in the country displacing 3,200 persons in the Nemteni district. Many houses in several districts have been flooded. The National Society will go ahead with assessing people's needs to facilitate distribution of humanitarian aid

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

Health and Care

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| Programme component 1: Influenza pandemics |
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| Component outcome: The preparedness and response capacity of the National Society to public health emergencies has been strengthened. |
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Achievements: In health and care the extensive participation and commitment of volunteers contribute to high efficiency and enables the Moldova Red Cross to increase the number of people reached. In the first six months of 2010 the National Society focused on pandemic influenza (H2P) preparedness and response, visiting nurses service, HIV and AIDS, and first aid

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

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

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

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

nurses service, in January and February Red Cross staff and volunteers from 8 branches carried out a survey.

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

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

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

In first-aid, the Estonian Red Cross facilitated training for trainers in April, with the participation of 13 volunteers and staff.

Constraints or Challenges: Lack of organizational capacity and human resources for care and health projects hampers the implementation of more ambitious activities.

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

Programme component 1: Sustainable systems, procedures and staff.

Component outcome: The Moldova Red Cross management structure, systems and procedures are strengthened.

Achievements: Considering the somewhat limited capacities of the National Society at headquarters and branch level, organizational development and capacity building are key priorities. Hence in order to support the Moldova Red Cross a Federation special advisor started his mission in the National Society in June. The key task for the advisor is to support capacity building processes while at the same time being integrated with the National Society.

Moreover, at the end of June IFRC granted the National Society funding through the Federation Capacity Building Fund (CBF) to support the creation and strengthening of partnerships with local communities in order to build community capacity to address their own needs. More specifically local branches will work with vulnerable communities through a participatory approach aiming at reducing vulnerability and strengthening processes of social integration of marginalized groups.

It is promising that the National Society improved its financial reporting capacity and now met the criteria by international donors. Narrative reports made substantial progress as well.

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

Principles and Values

Programme component 1: Combating trafficking

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

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

Achievements: No financial support was received through the Federation Moldova country plan. Still the National Society managed to work towards and actually received funding for the latter half of 2010.

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

The National Society received a grant from the Spanish Red Cross for anti-trafficking activities. Implementation will start in September.

Volunteers are a critical success factor in terms of reaching out with messages through information sessions and dissemination. Only through volunteers can the National Society reach all population groups and succeed in promoting for example the rights of elderly people in terms of social protection and medical assistance.

Totally 283 volunteers were trained in the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and dissemination methods. Moreover the 16 volunteers who were trained to become trainers and leaders in social mobilization under the health programme contributed to the principles and values programme.

In the first six months of 2010 the partnership with local public authorities was strengthened.

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

Working in partnership

During the last ten years international support to Moldova Red Cross has decreased significantly. Unfortunately the National Society has not managed to create a sufficiently stable and sustainable domestically financial base. Most of the efforts in this respect has been ad hoc and without the continuity required for ensuring that ample resources are available at any time. This has somewhat affected the National Society's ability to provide needed services targeting the most vulnerable people in Moldova.

Opportunities exists though which needs to be seized through a strategic and systematic approach. Establishing partnerships with a wide range of actors including organizations, public and private companies, public authorities and sister National Societies is essential. Meeting points and discussions in which the Moldova Red Cross can present its strategic priorities and demonstrate its worth in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable persons in the Moldovan society need to be organized. This will create an environment of trust and cooperation which will enable constructive discussions on strengths and weaknesses of different partnership models. Branch involvement and capacity building is called for in this process. Promoting the capacity of the strongest ten branches as examples to follow, and the impact generated by those branches are a natural element in the partnership building process. Supported by IFRC the Moldovan Red Cross will strive to continuously improve its partnership work and follow up ideas to gain momentum in capitalizing on the opportunities that emerge.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The potential impact of the National Society's work on a national level is presently limited to a few operational branches. Still, even these branches struggle with limited space usually in public buildings, lack of communication systems, few places for storage, no space for trainings and a small number of volunteers, normally 10 to 20 volunteers in each branch.

Particularly committed volunteers and branch directors are, however, promising for the development of the National Society. Drawing on this strong devotion, the capacity of the branches as well as the National Society as a whole, needs to be built through a systematic approach creating permanent, standardized and sustainable programmes run by volunteers and based on local economies.

The National Society has a group of 13 first-aid trainers and first-aid manuals have been translated into Romanian and Russian. The capacity these trainers represent and the many ideas on their use need to be tapped into in order to expand the level of activity of a number of branches.

The potential to introduce and establish Red Cross activities in local communities are especially great in Moldova due to the fact that the presence of NGOs or other civil society organizations are limited or non-existent in many communities. Simultaneously this implies that needs are numerous as they have not been previously addressed and requires a thorough analysis of needs, capacities and opportunities.

Many volunteers are retired, well educated and respected people while others are young people from primary and secondary schools. Both genders are represented. The span in volunteers in terms of age and background makes the National Society particularly able to address very different issues such as HIV and AIDS, trafficking in human beings, violence, stigma and discrimination.

In the last two years branch directors and volunteers have received training in disaster response, volunteering, prevention of HIV and AIDS, prevention of trafficking in persons and work with elderly people. However, as the capacity these trained people represent is in some cases dormant, more focus on encouraging and mobilizing experienced as well as new volunteers and communities is called for.

Introducing and thus increasing quality standards such as the National Society code of conduct in disasters is another area in which the National Society has much to gain.

Looking ahead

The National Society has the following programme priorities for the next two years:

- In disaster management the National Society will focus on disaster risk reduction.
- In health and care services for elderly people, first-aid including income-generating trainings and road safety, human trafficking, violence among children, education on water and sanitation, TB, harm reduction and HIV and AIDS education are priorities.
- Within humanitarian values the society will focus on reducing stigma and discrimination.
- Moreover the National Society will work to improve its image and visibility and improve coordination and its relation with the authorities and other stakeholders.

IFRC will support additional technical and management capacity-building activities later in the year assisting Moldovan Red Cross branches, volunteers and youth. This support will be integrated with the Federation Capacity Building Fund (CBF) support.

The consolidation of the first-aid training programme in 10 identified branches and the prospect for receiving the European first-aid certificate¹ will bring new ideas on how to increase the resources at all levels. At the same time it will contribute to promoting volunteering and youth involvement in Red Cross activities as it expands into new communities and utilizes the adapted tools.

The Japanese Red Cross has offered to support services to elderly people through IFRC. The support is expected at the end of 2010.

If successful the EU application addressing trafficking in human beings means that trafficking activities will be implemented in 2011 and 2012.

¹ The first-aid certificate issued by IFRC's *European Reference Centre for First Aid Education* in Paris.

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.

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