

# Plan 2010-2011



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Romania

### Executive Summary



Romania joined the European Union (EU) in 2007, following the completion of the negotiations in 2004 and the signing of the Accession Treaty in 2005. Becoming an EU member constituted a solid external anchor for the country in its ongoing transition process. Nevertheless, its accession and adoption of EU standards is neither the beginning nor the end of the integration process. The reform agenda has remained important and structural adjustment needs to continue to ensure sustained real and nominal convergence with the EU.

Macroeconomic gains have led to the creation of a stronger middle-class and are addressing Romania's widespread poverty, which continues to be considerably high with rural poverty double that of urban poverty. While poverty among children has dropped by over 30 per cent since 2003, the risk of relative poverty continues to rise. Some 75 per cent of poor children live in rural areas, where the poverty risk is three times higher than for children living in urban areas. More than one third of these poor children live in agricultural families, with a poverty ratio seven times higher than for children living in families with at least one employee. While poverty among Roma people dropped from 76 per cent in 2003 to 58 per cent in 2006, the poverty risk among the Roma population went from being three times higher in 2003 to four times higher than for the majority population in 2006. Low levels of labour market participation and employment, a large rural sector, widening disparities between regions, and high poverty constitute significant bottlenecks to the filtering down of economic growth to vulnerable social groups.<sup>1</sup>

In 2009, after eight years of rapid economic growth and impressive gains in poverty reduction, the global economic and financial crisis has exposed the growing imbalances and economic vulnerabilities in Romania's economy, rooted in a large, unfinished agenda of public sector and governance reforms. Economic activity started declining sharply in the last quarter of 2008 and has fallen further in 2009. Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth shifted from an average of 9 per cent<sup>2</sup> during the first three quarters of 2008 to a 13 percent decline in the fourth quarter. The decline was driven primarily by a drop in domestic demand. Export growth also slowed. With imports dropping even more sharply, the correction in the current account deficit began towards the end of 2008. For the first half of 2009, indicators such as confidence, industrial production, retail sales and tax revenues, all point to a continued sharp drop in GDP, along with rising unemployment as well as poverty incidence<sup>3</sup>.

The total 2010 and 2011 budget is CHF 129,198 (USD 127,373 or EUR 85,307).

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF – Romania country profile, <http://www.unicef.org/romania/overview.html>

<sup>2</sup> Quarter on quarter annualized.

<sup>3</sup> World Bank – Short Brief Romania 2009

[Click here to go directly to the summary budget of the plan.](#)

## Country context

Romania is a middle income country, and with a population of 21.6 million it is the second largest country in central and east Europe. Although now being an EU member, many challenges remain which needs additional structural reforms for building a competitive market economy capable of withstanding the pressures of EU integration. Moreover, poverty persists in the country, with over 15 percent of the population living below the poverty line. Two-thirds of Romania's poor live in rural areas despite the substantial potential in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

A poor family in Romania is likely to be one with six or more members, including four or more children. It will probably be headed by a woman with only primary education. The head of the household will be either unemployed, self-employed, or a subsistence farmer with less than two hectares of land. The family is also likely to be a Roma family, as Roma are three and a half times more likely to be poor than other Romanians.

From the economic point of view children represent a segment of the population which has probably paid the highest price of transition. Except for income-less adults, children are the social category with the highest proportion living in poverty.

Romania has a significant number of people affected by HIV and AIDS. According to the national report of the HIV and AIDS monitoring and evaluation department by the end of 2006, a cumulative total of 16,877 cases of HIV had been recorded. Of these, 10,264 people were registered with AIDS. By the end of 2006 the HIV prevalence was more than 30 and AIDS prevalence 47.5. From the number of newly registered HIV cases approximately 50 per cent were young persons aged 15 to 29. Sexual transmission accounts for over 78 per cent of the newly discovered HIV cases, while transmission associated with drug consumption remains under 3 per cent.

Development Indicators		ROMANIA	
<i>Population, geography and environment</i>		<i>Economy and labour</i>	
Total population (millions)	21.1	GDP per capita (PPP in USD)	12,600
Surface area (square km)	238,391	GDP real growth (%)	N/A
Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (metric tons)	N/A	Unemployment total (% of labour force)	N7A
<i>Social indicators</i>		<i>Health indicators</i>	
Adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and older) (2006)	98	Infant mortality rate (per 100,000) (2006)	14
Population below poverty line (%)	15	Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000) (2005)	24
Human development index value (HDI) (2008)	0.825	HIV prevalence (100,000)	30
Human development index rank (HDI)	62	People living with HIV/AIDS (aged 15-49) (2007)	15,000
		Life expectancy at birth (2007)	74.5

Sources: World Health Organization; World Bank; UNDP

**Table 1:** Selected development indicators for Romania

## National Society priorities and current work with partners

The strategic objectives set by the Romanian Red Cross in its 2007-2010 strategy covers the four key priority areas outlined in the International Federation's Strategy 2010. Based on these strategic objectives, the National Society focuses on disaster preparedness and response, health and care, organizational development, community mobilization and promoting humanitarian values.

Disaster management remains a priority area for the National Society. As set out in its strategy document, the aim of the Romanian Red Cross is to develop joint actions with vulnerable communities and authorities focusing on disaster risk reduction at community level. Moreover, such activities will focus on improving local, regional and national capacity in responding effectively to

any disaster in line with the mandate of the National Society. The society has already been involved in several disaster operations in the country including needs assessment and relief distribution.

In 2009 the Romania Red Cross strengthened its response capacity by establishing and training new RDRT members and starting a new activity by including psychological support within its response mechanism.

The health and care programme aims to scale up tuberculosis activities focusing on people with multi-drug resistant TB (MD-RTB) and prevention of HIV. The National Society has in the last two years distributed incentives for TB patients who are following directly observed therapy, funded by the Global Fund. The distribution of incentives is combined with volunteer training and education activities. It is also implementing harm reduction projects which will be continued in the next two years.

## Secretariat supported programmes in 2010 - 2011

### Disaster Management

#### a) The purpose and components of the programme

<b>Programme purpose</b>
Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

The disaster management programme budget for 2010 and 2011 is CHF 24,705

<b>Programme component 1: Disaster management planning and preparedness</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The National Society have updated their disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans including the role of the branches
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> National disaster response team capacities are further strengthened, through refresher courses and simulation exercises.

<b>Programme component 2: Psychological support</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> Refresher courses are provided for the PSP

#### b) Profile of target beneficiaries

- More training for headquarters and local branch staff and volunteers on disaster management including assessment, operational updates, and use of standard Federation documents.
- The National Society aim to have more cooperation and contacts with local Red Cross branches and improve its information and communication system including regulations and duties of Red Cross staff and volunteers at all levels in case of disaster.
- Re-organizing branch intervention teams using the model of newly established National Disaster Response Teams.
- To establish a task force/disaster management committee at national level which could take the overall responsibility to support disaster management process related activities. The committee could support the disaster management department in developing a vision, strategy and disaster preparedness and response plans in case of disasters.
- The use of Federation trained people, including regional disaster response team members, and National Society volunteers and staff in strategic planning, response operations and coordination, is a key factor for the sustainability of the disaster management programme.
- Link the disaster management activities of the Romanian Red Cross to the internal existing coordinating bodies within the society, i.e. the disaster committee.

## Health and Care

Since 2002, the Romanian Red Cross is implementing various projects that contribute in fight against tuberculosis in Romania. Within these activities the main focus is information sharing through the information sessions and publication of different materials, direct support to TB patients in their treatment through provision of incentives, social assistance and home care support including visits to clinics.

Within this plan the activities related to TB will be focused on providing psychological support to MDRTB patients and their family members / DOT supporters including health promotion education for peer supporters.

### a) The purpose and components of the programme

<b>Programme purpose</b>
Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies

The health and care programme budget for 2010 and 2011 is CHF 104,492

<b>Programme component 1: Prevention and control of HIV and AIDS and TB</b>
<b>Component outcome 1:</b> The National Society
<b>Component outcome 2:</b> The National Society has contributed to TB control and prevention through promotion and support of Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS) including psychological support

### b) Profile of target beneficiaries

The HIV and AIDS activities have young people as main target group. Activities within MDRTB targets TB affected people and their family members. The total number of direct targeted people within MDRTB is 40 patients and indirect number of beneficiaries is 80 family members.

## Role of the secretariat

The International Federation through the Europe zone office will provide technical and advisory support to the Romanian Red Cross. For this purpose the International Federation has developed a practice of utilizing the best practices and experiences available in the region through its human resource roster mechanism. This is a pool of expertise from all the regional National Societies and from the International Federation's offices in the region who have competence and experience in various fields and which are available to assist National Societies in need. Such experience will be used to support the Romanian Red Cross and will be based in the form of regular visits and discussions with the management and programme coordinators as well as monitoring visits in the field.

This practice will be further developed in the coming years since the International Federation is well positioned and experienced in creating platforms for sharing, joint planning and for promoting the latest standards, procedures and best practices. This will be done by further developing and maintaining the regional human resource roster and by providing opportunities for regional meetings, training sessions as well as during regular country visits and daily communication.

## Representation and advocacy

In line with obtaining and maintaining a good international image of the Movement, the International Federation through its Europe zone office will encourage and support the Romanian Red Cross to better advocate for its mandate and to better promote its activities and increase the National Society's visibility in the country.

The International Federation will continue to support the Romanian Red Cross to build a better understanding of the potential sources of financial, technical and other forms of support for the National Society's activities and capacity building.

## How we work

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".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

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