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Annual report Moldova

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAMD002

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**This report covers the period 01/JAN/2011 to
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*Training of first aid instructors in Moldova Red Cross in 2011.
Photo : Moldova Red Cross*

In brief

Programme outcome

The programmes of the Moldova Red Cross are aligned with the global aims of the International Federation's Strategy 2020 to save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; enable healthy and safe living; and promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace. The capacity-building efforts are in line with Enabling Action One to build strong National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Programme summary

During 2011, the Moldova Red Cross received external funding for disaster operations, health and care, National Society development, prevention of violence against children, and combating human trafficking.

With the financial support of the IFRC, the Moldova Red Cross implemented the project called **Prevention of violence and stigma** in ten branches, aiming at reducing violence against children, also reducing intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion through the promotion of respect for diversity and human dignity. A total of 1,441 persons have been informed on prevention of violence against children through public events, flash mobs, informative campaigns, drawing contests, brainstorming, and other public activities.

The Moldova Red Cross is the implementing partner in a two-year EU funded project on fight against human trafficking, which started in August 2011. The objective of the project is to strengthen national mechanisms for the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human



trafficking in Moldova. The Moldova Red Cross will be more involved in identification, referral and assistance to ensure sustainable access to services for victims of trafficking.

In **disaster response operations**, Moldova Red Cross branches together with the vulnerable communities took concrete steps with a view to reduce the risks and vulnerability, and to consolidate the preparedness and response potential disasters. In addition, 300 people received **social assistance** through the program “Twice Christmas”, and the delivery of 1,250 meals for elderly and poor people was organized; both programs were supported by the Swiss Red Cross.

The Moldova Red Cross received the European accreditation from the European Reference Centre on **First Aid**, to deliver First Aid training courses. A total of 23 first aid instructors were trained during 2011 by the National Society to provide first aid courses.

Another important step was the project where the Moldova Red Cross consolidated its information technologies capacity through the **Bridging the Digital Divide** initiative of the IFRC Secretariat. This involved the improvement of the internet connectivity and also the new design of the Moldova Red Cross website available in three languages (Romanian, Russian and English), which will certainly improve communication at all levels and will open up new opportunities for the National Society.

Financial situation

The total 2011 budget is CHF 504,997, of which CHF 111,831 (22 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 110,122; 22 per cent of the budget and 98 per cent of the actual income.

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

No. of people we have reached

Programme areas	Number of people reached
Disaster management	1,599
Health and Care	1,550
Youth and volunteering	94
First Aid courses	220
First Aid trainers	23
National Society Development	13 (NS staff)
Capacity building	140
Total	3,431

Context

The Republic of Moldova is still in the process of territorial consolidation, grappling with high unemployment, poor investment climate and an unstable political environment. The global financial crisis has worsened the economic situation of the vulnerable people living in the country. According to local Red Cross branches, the number of people requesting Moldova Red Cross assistance has increased recently.

Among the worst affected population are older people, people with disabilities, multi-child families, single-parent families and unemployed people mainly from the construction industry.

As many as three out of four Moldovans are living in poverty; the high rate of unemployment is another serious problem. Widespread poverty and the lack of job opportunities are pushing factors for labour migration. One eighth of a population of 4 million are working abroad. Labour migration is also a main source of income for many individuals and families as well. Moldova has the largest share of remittances as a percentage of GDP world-wide.

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 for an indefinite period of time. 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, substance abuse and juvenile crime. Very often domestic violence is a precursor to human trafficking and exploitation. More than 90 per cent of drug users are men and youth aged 15-19.

The country's economy remains highly vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly in agriculture and related sectors. Moldova is exposed to many types of hazards, including floods, droughts, and earthquakes, which can lead natural disasters and add to economic vulnerability.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme component 1: Community and organizational preparedness

Outcomes:

- Recruitment of a permanent Disaster Management coordinator at National Level.
- The National Society's disaster preparedness and response skills and material resources for emergency relief are strengthened.

Achievements

The Moldova Red Cross succeeded in temporarily recruiting a national DM coordinator who took part at the Europe Zone DM coordinators meeting. Unfortunately, the Moldova Red Cross cannot afford a permanent national coordinator; the present one has been hired just for the project duration.

A total of 12 seminars were organised and 213 persons trained in Disaster Management, including 190 Red Cross volunteers. Participants of the seminars have been familiarized with basic notions in Disaster Management, risk assessment, planning and coordination of actions, work out of the risk maps, and 12 steps towards community disaster preparedness. Also, they have been informed about the SPHERE project, Red Cross disaster response mechanisms and methods of distributing humanitarian aid during disasters. This has contributed to the consolidation of Moldova Red Cross partnership (as auxiliary to state authorities) with local public authorities.

Between November-December 2011 activities were implemented in 7 communities mostly prone to natural disasters in the branches Anenii Noi, Bender, Calarasi, Telenesti and Ungheni that aimed at building the capacity of National Society and vulnerable communities in the field of preventing and mitigating the consequences of possible natural disasters. Trained volunteers organised 30 informative sessions for families from risk zones with participation of representatives of local authorities in the respective communities. A total of 750 persons have been reached.

In November 2011, the Moldova Red Cross organized two disaster management workshops in the village Verejeni, Telenesti district and the city of Basarabasca with the participation of partners from the Service of Ecology, local public authorities, the Service of Civil Protection, heads of street committees and 47 community members. Red Cross volunteers benefited from materials edited in the project framework: “Volunteers in emergency situations” and “Psycho-social support in emergency situations”.

Preparedness activities to natural disasters are implemented in close cooperation with other partners – local public authorities, the State Service of Ecology, the Service of Civil Protection and Emergency Situations, UNDP and community members.

In 2011 the Republic of Moldova had 286 emergency situations, including 3 on the national scale. A total of 267 persons have been affected by occurred emergency situations and fires, of which 142 were victims, including 11 children. Material damage caused by emergency situations was estimated at about MDL 225,153,800. These circumstances make the preparedness to natural disasters a priority, seeking to respond efficiently to natural calamities and to reduce the risks of possible natural and man-made natural disasters. In order to improve preparedness activities during and after the disaster, Moldova Red Cross staff, branch directors and volunteers were trained during the year in the framework of several DM seminars and trainings.

In **disaster response operations** involving 12 Red Cross branches, including: Anenii-Noi, Basarabasca, Bălți, Briceni, Criuleni, Călărași, Chișinău, Donușeni, Glodeni, Soroca, Ungheni and Telenești, the main objective of the project was that Moldova Red Cross branches together with the vulnerable communities will undertake concrete steps with a view to reduce the risks and vulnerability, and to consolidate the preparedness and response potential disasters. Involved branches, in cooperation with local public authorities, departments of civil protection and emergency situations and other partners organized different joint activities at community level – seminars, informative sessions, elaboration of preparedness and reaction plans to natural disasters.

In addition 300 people received **social assistance** through the program “Twice Christmas” and delivery of 1,250 meals for elderly and poor people during the period February-June, both programs supported by the Swiss Red Cross.

Constraints or Challenges

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

Health and Care

Programme component 1: First aid and services for the elderly

Outcomes:

- The preparedness and response capacity of the National Society to public health in emergencies has been strengthened.
- Provide services for elderly population through the visiting nurses programme

Achievements:

The Moldova Red Cross received the European accreditation from the European Reference Centre on First Aid, to deliver First Aid training courses, which is valid for three years. In April and May 2011, 23 new instructors were trained in five branches: they trained 220 people in First Aid during the reporting period.

During the second half of 2011, with the support of Japanese Red Cross, Moldova Red Cross continued the implementation of the project “Strengthening Visiting Nurses Service”. The project aimed at providing medico-social assistance and psycho-social support at home for lonely elderly, HIV/AIDS and TB patients, and invalids from vulnerable families. In this regard, during seven months, seven visiting nurses provided medical services according to the medical prescriptions for 175 beneficiaries including 137 lonely elderly, 18 TB and 20 HIV patients. Along with medical services, clients benefited from social services, which involved 50 volunteers, who contributed to the psychological support to the beneficiaries.

For the successful project implementation and to meet better the needs of the target population, the National Society started establishing and improving cooperation with different NGOs that provide similar services, different round table meetings and seminars have been organised. Through local mass-media, the awareness of the population to the main problems and needs of the elderly, HIV patients was increased and the need of community involvement in diminishing their suffering was pointed out. Serving this purpose, the Anenii Noi, Balti, Donduseni, Glodeni and Telenesti Red Cross branches organized round table meetings to discuss possibilities of home based care and psychological support for the lonely elderly, and the importance of involving volunteers in home based care. Representatives of social assistance and education departments, NGO “Second breath”, Red Cross volunteers (a total of 93 persons, including 42 volunteers) participated in the meetings. All these measures have contributed to reduce vulnerability of Red Cross beneficiaries, as well as to increasing authority and civil society’s awareness on existing difficulties in this field.

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

Organizational Development/Capacity Building

Programme component 1: Sustainable systems, procedures and staff.

Outcome:

- The Moldova Red Cross management structure, systems and procedures are strengthened.

Achievements

During 2011, Moldova Red Cross with the support of the IFRC implemented the Organizational Development SOS project having branch capacity building, as well as vulnerability reduction and strengthening of social integration of vulnerable groups as priority objective. The project included the following components:

- Reduction of violence against children;
- Preparedness and reaction to natural disasters;
- Improvement of First Aid program;
- Meeting the needs of branch/community elderly;
- Creating new opportunities for youth.

Taking into consideration community vulnerability level and potential of branches, the project was implemented in 11 branches (initially foreseen in 5), including: Anenii Noi, Bălți, Basarabeasca, Bender Călărași, Chișinău, Glodeni, Orhei, Telenești, Ungheni and Soroca.

Principles and Values

Programme component 1: Combating trafficking

Outcomes:

- Reduce domestic violence and prevent violence against children
- Capacities of the Moldova Red Cross to combat human trafficking are strengthened.

Achievements:

During 2011, with financial support of the IFRC, the Moldova Red Cross implemented the project ``**Prevention of violence and stigma**`` in ten branches (*Anenii-Noi, Bălți, Briceni, Comrat, Criuleni, Chișinău, Călărași, Glodeni, Telenești and Ungheni*). It aimed at reducing violence against children, intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion through promotion of respect for diversity and human dignity. Also, it sought to build the capacity of the involved branches, consolidate partnership with relevant authorities, development of volunteering network. Thus, during November 21-22, 2011 in the framework of training on “Ten steps to creating safe environments”, directors of above mentioned branches and 20 volunteers have been trained according to the Canadian program “Creating safe environments”. All participants have been given the manual “Ten steps” and video material (elaborated with the support of the IFRC Senior Advisor for Moldova, Oscar Zuluaga) with a view to further train branch volunteers and to organize awareness activities for general population. The ten steps to creating safe environments, prevention of violence against children, population awareness methods, coordination of activities with partners, the work out of the plan on awareness activities have been brought into discussion.

Trained volunteers and branch directors organized a range of seminars for training of other 10 volunteers in each branch according to peer-to-peer education method in cooperation with youth, teachers, community leaders, authorities, rehabilitation centres. All in all, 100 volunteers, who ultimately unfolded different activities for different age groups – youth, children, adults, parents and teachers - have been trained. Awareness activities included: informative sessions, questionnaires, drawing contest, workshops, social theatre, presentations and public activities.

In total, pre-university institutions organized 30 informative sessions “Violence causes violence” with the participation of 475 pupils. A total of 1,441 persons have been informed on prevention of violence against children through public events, flash mobs, informative campaigns, drawing contest, brainstorming and other public activities (grand total: 1,916 beneficiaries).

In order to ensure an efficient promotion of the project, the local mass media (the local newspaper “Unghiul” in Ungheni, “Cimpia Glodenilor” in Glodeni, “Drapelul Muncii” in Anenii Noi) published a range of articles on the problems caused by violence against children and the efforts of the Moldova Red Cross in reducing violence and stigma. The National Society elaborated and edited 32,200 booklets “It shouldn’t hurt to be a child”, 40,000 pocket calendars “Stop violence”, 1,112 CDs with the movie “Ten steps to create a safe environments”, 2,345 bookmarks “Stop discrimination”, 150 flags with RC logo and 159 bags with RC logo for volunteers.

The Moldova Red Cross is an implementing partner in an EU project on fight against **human trafficking**, the final contract was signed in June and the implementation period lasts for two years starting in September 2011. The objective of the project is to strengthen national mechanisms for the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking in Moldova. The Moldova Red Cross will be more involved in identification, referral and assistance to ensure sustainable access to services for victims of trafficking. This project is implemented in 50 communities in 4 Red Cross branches (Bender, Glodeni, Telenesti and Ungheni) and foresees identification of victims, provision of medical assistance by visiting nurses and volunteers, as well as other services – psychological support, humanitarian aid, etc. in close cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection, Family and Child, Ministry of Internal Affairs, local public authorities, other partners as: NGO “La Strada”, Social centre “Resonans”, Foundation “Terre des hommes”, etc.

Taking into account the situation on the left bank of Nistru river and the high rate of uninformed population, on 12th October 2011 a seminar on “Challenges of illegal migration” focusing on human trafficking and determining joint activities of authorities was organised in Bender with the participation of representatives from Moldova Red Cross, IOM, other organizations and mass media. Furthermore, 15 volunteers from Bender Red Cross branch conducted survey with different population groups (aged 16-60 years) on illegal migration. The survey revealed that youth has relatively low awareness compared to the middle aged population groups (a total of 450 persons have been surveyed). The respondents participating in the survey were informed about the activities of the Moldova Red Cross and IOM hot line preventing human trafficking, They also received booklets and other relevant materials on the activity of Moldova Red Cross. The results of the survey showed that major attention has to be paid to youth.

Between November-December 2011, Glodeni and Telenesti Red Cross branches organised seminars on “Development and Well-functioning of the National Referral System for Protection and Assistance of the victims and potential victims of human trafficking” and “Medical assistance provided by visiting nurses and volunteers to victims of human trafficking”. The purpose of the seminars was to establish a work group on prevention and combating of human trafficking with volunteers from different localities. The representatives of the district councils, departments of social assistance, family doctors, psychologists and volunteers from many localities participated at these seminars. A total of 30 volunteers were trained.

During September-December 2011, 11 victims of human trafficking were identified, including 2 victims in Glodeni - 3, Telenesti - 3, Ungheni - 3 and Bender – 3 victims. 26 victims of human trafficking have benefited from quality rehabilitation and reintegration services within the Crisis Centre for Victims and Potential Victims of Human Trafficking in Chisinau and the centre in the village Cornesti, Ungheni district. A total of 150 victims of human trafficking, including 17 on the left bank of the Nistru River in Bender, received humanitarian aid.

There is another project “Combating of human trafficking” supported by Spanish Red Cross with an implementing period of January – December 2011 at the Bender, Chisinau, Calarasi, Balti, Glodeni, Anenii Noi and Ungheni branches. It is aimed at providing support to the government in combating and diminishing the vulnerability of the victims of human trafficking in the Republic of Moldova, on the one hand, and increasing awareness of target groups and general population to prevent human trafficking, on the other hand.. In order to achieve the above mentioned objectives, at national and branch levels range of measures have been undertaken: cooperation contacts were established with

key partners – Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family Affairs, local public authorities, international organizations (IOM), NGOs (La Strada).

1-3 February 2011, the IOM organised a seminar on social and humanitarian assistance with the participation of migrants and Moldova Red Cross representatives, Frontier Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Labour, and NGOs. During the seminar, the existing problems at national and European level were discussed; causes of human trafficking and combating measures were identified. Participants exchanged experience, shared the difficulties they were confronted with, and identified solutions.

On 28th April 2011 Bender Red Cross branch organized a regional seminar for Red Cross staff and volunteers from the involved branches with representatives from the departments of education, departments of social assistance, law enforcement authorities. The seminar aimed at enabling exchange of experience on illegal migration, as well as to develop a joint methodology with a view to solve the problems of potential victims of human trafficking. At the end of May, in Bender a coordination meeting of Red Cross volunteers was organised with partners on ``Preventing human trafficking through education and awareness``. The meeting brought real case studies into discussion. Red Cross volunteers received ``The informative guide for volunteers`` elaborated by IOM and La Strada. All in all, during the project implementation period the following activities were organized: round table meetings (1), trainings (5), regional seminars (5), coordination meetings for volunteers and partners (5), seminars (10), informative sessions (50), campaigns (1), interviews (1), articles in local newspapers (4), radio shows for more than 1,000 people. During project implementation, IOM offered Moldova Red Cross for distribution 4,500 booklets on prevention measures and combating of human trafficking.

Working in partnership

During 2011 the Moldova Red Cross continued its cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies through the Europe Zone Office in Budapest, the International Committee of the Red Cross through the Moscow Regional Representation, which contributed to the consolidation of Moldova Red Cross capacities and potential to the fulfillment of statutory provisions and delivery of quality services to target groups.

The established partnerships with international organisations: UNHCR, IOM, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP in Moldova, sister National Societies and access to the international experience have lead to efficient joint actions and creation of a comprehensive database for future activities.

Also, Moldova Red Cross continued its cooperation with state level and local authorities in providing assistance to the vulnerable layers of population, promotion of the International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian values, diminishing the risks and consequences of the natural and technological emergency situations.

The Italian Red Cross, European Union, Norwegian RC/Norwegian Aid and UK's Department for International Development (DfiD) provided support through IFRC to the Moldova country plan. Support and cooperation also came from the Japanese Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross. Moreover, the Moldova Red Cross is working closely with the Centre for Civil Protection and Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Protection, local authorities and NGOs such as "Credinta" and "La Strada".

Contributing to longer-term impact

The volunteers and branch directors particularly committed to their work are a promising factor to contribute to the development of the Moldova National Society. Based on this strong devotion, the capacity of the branches, and of the National Society as a whole needs to be further improved through a systematic approach, by creating permanent, standardized and sustainable programmes, run by volunteers and based on local economies and the needs of communities.

Many volunteers are retired, well-educated and respected people of their communities; while others are young people from primary and secondary schools. Both genders are represented. The diverse structure of 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.

The potential to introduce and establish Red Cross activities in local communities are especially promising in Moldova due to the fact that the presence 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 this requires a thorough assessment of needs, and mapping capacities and opportunities.

Looking ahead

The Moldova Red Cross Society has the following programme priorities based on the achievements in 2011 and looking forward to 2012:

1. In the field of disaster management the Moldova National Society will focus on community based disaster risk reduction.
2. In the health and care sector service provision for elderly people, education on water and sanitation are the priorities.
3. Within the promotion of humanitarian values component, the Moldova Red Cross is aiming at implementing projects to reduce stigma and discrimination and violence among children through humanitarian activities implemented in the branches.
4. Moreover, the National Society will work to improve its image and visibility and improve coordination and its relationship with the authorities and other stakeholders.
5. The consolidation of the first-aid training programme in six identified branches and the approval of the European first aid certificate will contribute to introduce new ideas on how to increase the resources at all levels.
6. At the same time, the Moldova Red Cross will contribute to promote volunteering and youth involvement in Red Cross activities as the National Society expands into new communities and utilizes the adapted tools.
7. Anti-trafficking activities will be implemented in 2011 and 2012.

How we work

All IFRC 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 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.

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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 nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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