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# Annual report Montenegro

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**MAAME001**  
**30 April 2012**

**This report  
covers the period  
from 1 January 2011 to  
31 December 2011.**

*Sharing experiences and learning from  
each other: RC/RC Roma networking  
meeting – Podgorica, April 2011  
Photo: Red Cross of Montenegro*



## In brief

The programmes of the Red Cross of Montenegro 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 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 summary

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies continues to support the Red Cross of Montenegro in its efforts to provide efficient and adequate services to the most vulnerable groups within the following programmes.

- **Disaster management:** In addition to the ongoing disaster preparedness activities dealing with coordination among stakeholders at the local level, the International Federation provided support for activities aimed at people affected by severe floods.
- **Health and care:** The focus is on HIV and AIDS as well as voluntary blood donation activities.
- **Organizational development:** The focus is on developing sustainable systems, procedures and increasing the staff's capacities.
- **Principles and values:** Work with vulnerable populations for their strengthening and integration, as well as advocacy for the benefit of vulnerable Roma children, young people living with disabilities, and older vulnerable people.

Due to limited funding, most of the activities have to be postponed until resources are found to implement them. Only the Principles and Values work with vulnerable Roma children and

their parents as well as with young people living with disabilities and their parents has been funded. The International Federation continues to support the Red Cross Society of Montenegro in looking for new sources of funding to invest into priority areas and achieve the planned results.

### Financial situation

The total 2011 budget is CHF 26,732, of which CHF 348, one per cent, was covered during the reporting period including the opening balance. The overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 0, zero per cent, of the budget. The activities in the Humanitarian Values programme have been funded through the Federation budget for the Red Cross of Serbia, as stipulated in the contract with the donor.

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

### No. of people we have reached

The activities described in this report have directly reached approximately 656 people: vulnerable Roma children and their parents, and also young people living with disabilities and their families.

### Our partners

The Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development contributed as a multilateral donor. The Danish, the Austrian, the Italian and the Spanish Red Cross Societies have contributed as bilateral donors independently or on programmes coordinated by the International Federation. Two Ministries of Montenegro were involved as programme partners.

### Context

The political situation in Montenegro has been stable despite public debates around the official name of the Slavic language that is taught in schools. As the recent census showed it, more than 50% of the population considers Serbian their native tongue, and the school system does not recognise that.

Economically speaking, the Montenegro is experiencing the effects of the global financial and economic crisis with unemployment reaching 11%. The period of huge foreign investments (especially in real estate) that was fuelling the Montenegrin economy until recently has ended, and at the moment the experts are talking about the need to increase domestic savings in order to manage international debts and continue economic growth. With inflation at 3.5% and the Gross Domestic Product having increased by 2.7% in 2011, the economic situation can be described as stable.

The humanitarian situation is largely unchanged with the Roma-Ashkali-Egyptian (RAE) population, where refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain the most vulnerable segment. The biggest group of displaced Roma people from Kosovo is still living in the Konik camp in Podgorica where nearly 2,500 people are still awaiting a lasting settlement. Their return to Kosovo is very slow, averaging at ten families per year, and integration efforts apparently need to be better coordinated.

When it comes to international humanitarian support, the Red Cross of Montenegro has in recent years made a transition from predominantly Federation-channelled funding to a

number of bilateral partnership agreements that are in line with the strategic priorities of the National Society as well as the identified needs in the Montenegrin society.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster Management

**Programme purpose:** Reduce the number of deaths injuries and impact from disasters.

No funding was available for these activities.

### Health and care

**Programme purpose:** Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

There was no funding for these activities.

### Organizational development

**Programme purpose:** Increase the Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

No funding was available for these activities.

### Humanitarian values

**Programme purpose:** Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Programme component 1: Open kindergarten for Roma and other children from marginalized families / Work with young people living with disabilities

Outcomes:

- The education and social participation of Roma children and children with disabilities has been improved through continued work with 500 Roma children and children with disabilities as well as their families.
- The number of Roma children from the Konik camp enrolling in primary school and completing basic education is increased.

## Achievements

### Service delivery

The programme was implemented in 3 municipalities targeting 257 vulnerable Roma children and 131 parents, one of them being Podgorica where the programme is implemented in the camps “Konik 1” and “Konik 2” which are managed by the Red Cross of Montenegro Headquarters, and in 6 municipalities targeting 203 children and young people with disabilities and their 65 parents.

The joint programme for inclusion was successfully implemented in this reporting period thanks to the hard work of 61 Red Cross volunteers supported by 30 Red Cross employees and part-time staff.

Vulnerable Roma children and children and young people with disabilities have actively participated in a number of various Red Cross activities together with Red Cross volunteers and other children, which is beneficial in the light of inclusion.

### ***The third project activities cycle for vulnerable Roma children in progress***

The third project activities cycle for vulnerable Roma children was completed in August 2011, resulting in 95 children completing one year support through mentor classes, 109 children enrolling into the first grade of elementary school and 41 children successfully passing to the next grade of elementary school. The following table provides an overview of the main project results.

	Project result	Montenegro	
		RCB	Konik
Vulnerable Roma children	Completed one year education support in mentor classes	<b>95</b>	
		25	70
	Enrolled into the formal preschool <sup>1</sup>	<b>NA</b>	
		NA	NA
	Enrolled into the first grade of elementary school	<b>109</b>	
		10	99
	Passed to the next grade of elementary school	<b>41</b>	
		3	38
<b>Total:</b>		<b>245</b>	

Special attention was given to supporting the parents in fulfilling prerequisites and completing administrative procedures related to enrolment of the children into the first grade of the elementary school. In September 2011, new education groups were formed with approximately 250 new beneficiaries.

<sup>1</sup> In Montenegro, the preschool preparatory programme is optional, and certificates are not required for enrolment.

Key segments of service delivery for vulnerable Roma children included the following:

- Mentor classes: Support to preschool children (age 3-6) to enrol into the formal preschool preparatory programme was implemented by 3 RC branches and in the Konik Camps targeting 117 vulnerable Roma children in Montenegro, out of which 91 live in the Konik Camps housing displaced Roma from Kosovo;
- Preschool preparatory programme<sup>2</sup>: In communities where the capacities of formal preschool institutions or their accessibility for vulnerable Roma children are limited, the Red Cross branches provided replacement programmes. This was done by 3 RC branches and in the Konik Camps targeting 88 vulnerable Roma children in Montenegro, out of which 68 live in the Konik Camps;
- Homework support classes: Support to vulnerable Roma pupils in elementary school was provided by 3 RC branches and in the Konik Camps targeting 52 vulnerable Roma children, out of which 32 live in the Konik Camps.
- Programme for parents: Currently organised in the form of parents' meetings and thematic workshops based on the local needs, this programme was implemented by 3 RC branches and in the Konik Camps in Montenegro encompassing 131 parents out of which 106 parents were from the Konik Camps.

In addition to this, the beneficiaries of the programme were provided meals during the activities as well as school material supplies and hygiene kits.

The Red Cross of Montenegro has also organised the usual outdoor classes for vulnerable Roma children in the Red Cross House of Solidarity in Sutomore on the Montenegrin Coast for one week in the summer. During the outdoor classes, the children were involved in a number of social and educational activities. Taking the children out of their regular environment and giving them positive experiences with other children and adults did not only strengthen the children's educational competences and skills but also their social competences and self-esteem.

### ***Specifics of Camp Konik require specific actions***

The Konik Camps 1 and 2 and the nearest surrounding area, with 2,500 displaced Roma from Kosovo and Metohija since 1999, has been recognised as a project of national importance by the Government of Montenegro. Numerous particularities related to the camp and the close involvement of the Government call for specific attention and unique approaches when including the children of the camps into the educational system. At present, the following activities are implemented.

- Inclusive education for displaced Roma children since 2008, when a pilot project furthering inclusive education for these children was initiated by the Montenegro Red Cross, the Ministry of Education and Science, UNICEF and local Roma NGOs.
- A total of 45 Roma children from the Konik Camps were enrolled into five mainstream schools in Podgorica town – instead of the segregated school located in the camps which would otherwise be the most common choice by parents. Through this activity, 16 children completed the first grade and all 16 continued into the second grade in September, while 22 have continued to the third grade. In addition, 7 new children were enrolled into two public schools in September.
- Second chance education: In the camp Konik, literacy training classes were carried out for youth who dropped out of the formal education system or never started schooling. The coordinator of the camp reported that there was a huge interest for this programme among Roma youth. In the previous reporting period the activity targeted 18 beneficiaries who were supported in preparations for official exams

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<sup>2</sup> In Montenegro, the preschool preparatory programme is optional and certificates are not required for enrolment.

equivalent to grades in the formal elementary education system. The exam took place in January 2011. Out of 18 beneficiaries, 16 successfully obtained certificates on completion of the respective grade of elementary school as follows.

Grade of elementary school certificate was obtained for	Number of applicants
4 <sup>th</sup>	3
5 <sup>th</sup>	4
6 <sup>th</sup>	3
7 <sup>th</sup>	4
8 <sup>th</sup> (completed elementary school)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

- Language classes: Furthermore, language classes were organised for 20 children aged 5-6 years, as the camp inhabitants predominantly speak only Albanian or Roma. The activity aims to support the children in overcoming the language barrier when they enrol into the formal education system.

### ***Service delivery for children and young people with disabilities in progress***

Key segments of service delivery for the vulnerable children and young people with disabilities included various activities in the form of interactive workshops aiming to:

- Stimulate social development and inclusion;
- Help beneficiaries acquire practical life skills;
- Stimulate intellectual development;
- Stimulate perception and fine motorics;
- Improve skills that are relevant for active job seeking; and
- Support parents to be able to better help the education of their children.

The current breakdown of the beneficiaries of the project is as follows.

Beneficiaries	Montenegro
Children & young people with disabilities, C/YPWD, who attend regular schools	25
C/YPWD who attend special schools for pupils with disabilities	125
C/YPWD outside the education system	53
YPWD on the job market	-
<b>Total number of children</b>	<b>203</b>
Programme for parents	65
<b>Total number of beneficiaries</b>	<b>268</b>

***Methodology for facilitating municipal cooperation launched in Montenegro***

The implementation of cooperation-building workshops in targeted municipalities is in progress. It is expected that the implementation of this methodology will help Red Cross branches in actively involving the relevant local authorities and civil society organisations in the project implementation, ultimately contributing to more effective use of resources in the targeted communities. Following the cooperation-building workshops, municipal teams will be formed and will continue to meet occasionally for discussions / exchange of experience.

***Knowledge sharing beyond the national borders***

The Red Cross of Montenegro hosted the Red Cross / Red Crescent Roma networking meeting in early April 2011. The European Red Cross / Red Crescent Thematic Roma Network was established in 2005, involving a number of Red Cross National Societies working actively with and for vulnerable Roma. The aim of the network is to facilitate continuous exchange of experience among European Red Cross / Red Crescent societies on work with, and for, vulnerable Roma people, to stimulate programme development and to promote cooperation across borders.

The overall theme of this particular meeting was “Strengthening and increasing the value of cooperation with public authorities”. National Societies from Europe gathered to present effective practices from their experience and learned from each other. Besides presentation of the Joint Programme for Inclusion, the Red Cross of Serbia shared experience of implementation of Participatory Community Development methodology for cooperation development, while the International Federation gave a presentation on the Red Cross cooperation model applied in the Joint Programme for Inclusion.

***Participation in nation-wide activities related to the inclusion of vulnerable Roma***

Cooperation continued with the Ministry of Education and the Institute for Public Health of Montenegro, UNICEF, UNCHR, the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro and other relevant organisations in the framework of the Konik camp management.

***Cooperation of the Red Cross with local institutions continues***

Over the years of programme implementation, the Red Cross branches have established cooperation with the relevant local institutions and organisations which is maintained in a semiformal setup. The standardisation paper produced by the management team has provided guidance for the implementing Red Cross branches for cooperation development with the relevant local stakeholders.

***Training on Public Relations and lobbying for the project team members***

An in-house training on public relations and lobbying was organized for eight project team members in this implementation period as an asset in developing the advocacy platform for the Red Cross.

***Advocacy framework under development***

A draft concept paper on advocacy has been developed, outlining the definition of advocacy, objectives, principles, tools and the process for implementation within the programme. A decision was made to develop and include training sessions on advocacy in all trainings for

volunteers and staff that have been planned in the framework of the Joint programme for inclusion.

### ***Local advocacy initiatives in continuum***

A number of implementing Red Cross branches have carried out various events related to inclusion of marginalised groups drawing attention of general public, local institutions and media both in Serbia and in Montenegro. Examples include public exhibitions of children's artwork about children's rights in the Promotion of human values project during the Children's Week and a public photo exhibition with the slogan 'Tolerance is cool'.

### ***Standardisation paper for Montenegro completed***

Standardisation paper for the Red Cross of Montenegro has been finalised following several workshops that were organised to gather the inputs from the staff working directly with vulnerable Roma children and children and young people with disabilities and discuss the draft standardisation paper. Roll-out of the standards in progress as of September.

### ***Promotion of Human Values project in Montenegro fully operational***

Printing and distribution of the manual for Promotion of Human Values was completed for the Red Cross of Montenegro. Training for youth volunteers, teachers and Red Cross employees was organized to support the launch of the project in the field. The training programme was conducted by experienced trainers of the Red Cross of Serbia in spring. Refresher training was organized in August to facilitate the project kick-off in Red Cross branches with special focus on elements of advocacy.

### ***Supervisory training in Active Teaching for teachers and facilitators in Montenegro completed***

Red Cross of Montenegro organized a supervisory training in Active teaching<sup>3</sup> for teachers and facilitators active in the programme aiming to increase and maintain quality of teaching by introducing accredited contemporary teaching methodology in the programme.

### ***Preparations for the next phase***

A meeting of senior managers of the Red Cross of Serbia, Red Cross of Montenegro, the Danish Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross and the International Federation was hosted by the Federation Zone Office in Budapest at the end of March 2011 to discuss the future cooperation between the Red Cross partners in relation to the Joint Programme for Inclusion. The key conclusions were as follows.

- The Red Cross of Montenegro and the Red Cross of Serbia will be direct partners of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in the next phase of the programme (2012-2015);
- Possible roles of other Red Cross partners in the next phase (on consultancy basis) will be identified during the planning process that will follow the evaluation of the programme;

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<sup>3</sup> Training programme developed by the Ministry of Science and Education of Montenegro, the Institute for Psychology, the Ministry of Education of Serbia and UNICEF and accredited by the Institute for Professional Development of Teachers.

- Current phase of the programme, in sense of coordination of reporting, evaluation, planning process for the next phase and financial review will be managed and closed by the International Federation;
- The Red Cross of Montenegro and the Red Cross of Serbia will take over full responsibility for programme management as of 01 January 2012.

The Montenegro Red Cross will apply for further support to the programme directly to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Bern in contrast to the practice so far where the support was provided through the Swiss Cooperation Office in Belgrade on the basis of a joint application with Serbia. A planning workshop involving representatives of the Ministry of Education, Red Cross and other relevant partners was planned for early 2012.

### ***Issues in Implementation***

There were slight deviations from the Plan of Action in implementation of some activities due to prioritisation to implement some joint activities. However, these will not jeopardise the final outcomes of the programme.

### **Working in partnership**

The Red Cross of Montenegro worked in partnership with the International Federation and received support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation through the Federation Secretariat plan. Bilaterally, the Danish and the Spanish Red Cross Societies supported the National Society of Montenegro in the activities listed in the annual plan, whereas the Italian and the Austrian Red Cross Societies supported the Home Care programme that was until recently supported through the Annual Plan and the Federation but is now completely planned and managed by the Red Cross of Montenegro in cooperation with its partners. The NGO Pomoć Deci and UNICEF were partners in the field of humanitarian values.

### **Contributing to longer-term impact**

The work with vulnerable populations in Montenegro and the efforts to ensure a community-wide response to community needs are in line with the International Federation's Strategy 2020 goals and its emphasis on preventing deaths and illnesses as well as building communities' capacities to combat their own vulnerability.

Besides being aligned with Strategy 2020, the programme components of the Red Cross of Montenegro are compatible with local and regional initiatives such as the Decade of Roma Inclusion and the Poverty Reduction Strategies. Work towards disaster preparedness pursues the goal of reducing the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters, a much needed endeavour in the country as disasters, both natural and man-made, seem to become more frequent. All programmes have gender equality as an integrated and important component.

### **Looking ahead**

The current funding situation allows the International Federation to be directly involved only with activities funded by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency. It will continue providing technical support and looking for alternative funding opportunities to support other priority areas included in the country plan.

### How we work

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](http://www.ifrc.org)

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