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Annual report

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAMK002

30 April 2012

**This report covers the
period 01 January 2011
to 31 December 2011.**



In brief

Programme outcome

In line with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Strategy 2020, the aim of the Federation-supported programmes in Macedonia is to *save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises; to enable healthy and safe living; and to promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.*

For the period 2010-2011, the IFRC Secretariat's key areas of support to the Macedonian Red Cross included guiding the National Society in its development process of transformation, strengthening its human resource capacities to provide quality services to the most vulnerable and improving its capacities in disaster preparedness and response to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme summary

Due to limited funding, only activities in the Disaster Management programme were completed, while the remaining programmes are to be implemented as soon as financial support is ensured. Within the Disaster Management programme, a project focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction was started, covering 12 primary schools in three micro-regions or six municipalities: Prilep (Dolneni and Krivogashtani), Makedonski Brod (Plasnica) and Krusevo with the following achievements.

133 trained teachers and technical staff were trained for protection and self-protection in case of disasters. 36 teachers were trained in First Aid (with certificates). 6,000 students were trained for the practical use of contingency plans for evacuation in case of disasters (flood, fire and earthquake). 20 representatives completed a course for assessment of vulnerability and capacity (Local Government, Department for Protection and Rescue, Centre for Crisis Management, Police, Prilep, Krusevo and Makedonski Brod branches and volunteers).

Financial situation

The total 2011 budget is CHF 65,310, of which CHF 43,068 (66 per cent) was covered during the reporting period, including the opening balance. The overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 40,435, or 62 per cent of the budget. The Macedonian Red Cross has been active in seeking other sources of funding, further partners and new opportunities.

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

No. of people we have reached

Approximately 6,200 people benefited directly from the Federation supported programmes of the Macedonian Red Cross Society.

Our partners

Schools in six municipalities as well as their respective municipal authorities and members of first responder services as well as the International Federation of the Red Cross / Red Crescent Societies and sister National Societies contributed and cooperated with Macedonian Red Cross to implement their activities.

Context

The political situation in Macedonia was fairly stable in 2011. However, the economy is still suffering from the effects of the economic crisis with a slow GDP growth – estimated at 3.3% for 2011 – but higher than in 2010 (1.3%), and rising inflation (3.9%).

A largely obsolete industrial infrastructure has not seen much investment during the transition period. Labour force education and skills are competitive in some technical areas and industries but significantly lacking in others. Without adequate job opportunities, many with the best skills seek employment abroad. A relatively low standard of living, high unemployment rate estimated at 30% of the work force, and modest economic growth rate are the central economic problems.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme purpose: Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

Programme component 1: Disaster Management Planning

Outcome:

- Contingency and response plans are updated to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities.

Programme component 2: Organizational Preparedness

Outcome:

- Component outcome 1: Improved capacity in skilled human resources at both branch and national level.

Achievements

The activities were started in the second half of 2011 due to the late arrival of funding. Like it had been done last year, the activities were implemented in various phases to ensure the assessment of risks and capacities at local level in six municipalities of three micro-regions in Macedonia (Prilep, Kruševo, Makedonski Brod). The total project budget was CHF 37,600. The mayors of the 6 municipalities that took part in the last project in 2011 continued the activities at the other schools which were not covered with the project, so this project was more than successful.

The first phase consisted of gathering information and informing the users:

- Vulnerability-assessment of the educational institutions in the targeted municipalities
- Selection of vulnerable schools
- Collecting information about risks in the targeted municipalities
- Introduction of local population with the benefits of the project.

For this phase the Macedonian Red Cross organised workshops with local institutions responsible for preparedness and disaster management as well as principles of the selected schools, as well as meetings with local governments.

The further steps included:

- Detailed assessment of selected schools and preparation of technical reports and studies on evacuation, rescue and protection, preparation of scenarios for practical exercises, training of staff for first aid in the workplace, training of teachers and technical staff to use the plan for protection and rescue, training course and assessment of vulnerabilities and capacities.
- Infrastructural activities at schools (panic signal, plans for evacuation, first aid boxes)
- Local assessment teams were formed from volunteers and experts to identify the types of risks, vulnerabilities and capacities in the given municipalities.
- Making risk maps for each community, constructing of a database (Global Mapper), and regional simulations with the inclusion of all entities responsible for disaster management at local level as well as practical exercises for evacuation in the targeted schools. This step is ongoing with some of the communities being finished with the simulation exercises while others are still in preparation.
- Producing reports on the above mentioned simulations and exercises with recommendations for further capacity building for the targeted schools. As above, this step has been completed in approximately half of the communities. The rest will follow.

The Macedonian Red Cross expressed its appreciation that during the past year the IFRC had approved the Disaster Risk Reduction project for a further three micro-regions, and as a result of that, they already covered half of Macedonia for DRR. The other stakeholders in this project, which are part of the National System for Crisis Management, on national and local level took part in this project with their full capacities.

Health and Care

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

Programme component 1: Maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH)

- Improved MNCH through National Society community based activities, including safe motherhood and child health initiatives, vaccination and nutrition activities.

Programme component 2: Preventive health activities with focus on HIV and TB

- Increase awareness and reduce stigma associated to TB/HIV through program advocacy, communication and social mobilisation.

Programme component 3: Voluntary non-remunerated blood donation

- Increase awareness of the population for voluntary non-remunerated blood donation through development of Club 25.

Achievements:

No funding was available for this activity through multilateral or bilateral channels.

Organizational Development/ Capacity Building

Programme purpose: Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme component: Supporting National Society OD process

- Red Cross law and statutes including other documents and regulations are amended and approved.

Programme component: Volunteering and Youth development

- Strengthen youth and volunteer base with the aim of providing effective and quality services in all programme areas.

Achievements:

No funding for this activity was available under the annual country plan through multilateral or bilateral channels. However, the Macedonian National Society has worked on these objectives using the support provided through the Intensified Capacity Building plan.

The Macedonian Red Cross has completed a three-year project under the Intensified Capacity Building modality of support (ICB) and submitted the final report. The project lasted for 6 years, and the last 3 years have shown spectacular improvements starting from more focused and more relevant programme delivery and services, relative financial independence, increased partnership inside and outside the Movement, increased income from the corporate sector, signed partnership agreements with many companies and the Macedonian Chambers of Commerce to increase the number of its members and volunteers.

Constraints or Challenges

The belated arrival of the funding meant that the activities only took place in the second half of the year in the Disaster Management programme, with some of them continuing in 2012. The rest of the activities are on hold until the funding is secured.

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.



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

Contact information

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