

Annual report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Regional Representation for Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Moldova

MAA67003

6 May 2010

This report covers the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009.



The Federation regional representatives together with the Russian Red Cross and the Russian Ministry of Health at the launch of World Disaster Report 2009 in Moscow. Photo: Central House of Journalists

In brief

Programme summary: The Federation regional representation in Moscow worked with the National Societies of Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine to support them in their work aligned with the Global Agenda Goals. Most of this support is laid out in the individual plans for each country, and is reported on through separate annual reports, which can be found here: [Belarus](#), [Moldova](#), [Ukraine](#) and [Russia](#). As such, the plan for the regional representation tried to capture cross-country and regional themes.

This regional plan was closed at the end of 2009, as the country plans are well established as the primary vehicle for articulating the support to the four countries, in a more focussed way.

The activities in the field of humanitarian diplomacy were extended and an agreement was reached between the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the government of the Russian Federation to cooperate in supporting the modernization process of the Russian Red Cross.

Financial situation: There was no income received in 2009 to support this plan. The attached financial report shows an opening balance of 457,499 Swiss francs carried forward from the previous year and was re-allocated to other projects under the individual country plans.

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

Our partners: The regional representation cooperated with the Red Cross Societies in the region and partner National Societies, USAID, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN agencies operating in Russia, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Russian

Context

In 2009 the four ex-soviet countries of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova experienced serious negative consequences of the global economic crisis. In Russia, drops in oil prices dramatically reduced the state's budget income. Moldova has suffered from a big recession in the national economy and a drop in remittances from abroad. Moreover, the number of people returning has doubled, placing even greater strain on this tiny, shattered economy. Ukraine's economy is heavily dependent on steel, which is less needed as the construction industry world-wide has slumped. Gas transitting, another big earner, was damaged by the so-called "gas wars" with Russia.

Those left most vulnerable are older people living alone, multi-child families, street children, people with disabilities, and marginalized people such as homeless people, people living with HIV, alcoholics, drug users and migrants. Largely as a result of this economic and social picture, migration is a fact of life for many communities.

All the four countries are going through deep demographic crises; population growth is estimated at a negative 0.6 per cent. The incidence rates of HIV and Tuberculosis (TB) present major health problems. HIV prevalence varies between the four countries, but is high in Ukraine, at 1.4; in Russia at 1.1; and in Moldova at 1.1; however it is much lower in Belarus, standing at 0.3. With regard to the spread of TB, prevalence rates in Russia and Moldova are the highest in Europe with 150 and 149 cases per 100,000 people respectively.

A more in-depth analysis of the context in each country is contained in the country programme updates.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Programme component : Disaster management capacity building
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Component outcome 1: A structure of regional cooperation in all aspects of disaster management is established.

Component outcome 2: Linkages to the International Federation's regional and global response systems are reinforced.

Due to the lack of funding, no activities under this component were implemented.

Programme component : Disaster management response

Component outcome: A contingency plan is in place to immediately and effectively coordinate or support the response in case of disasters.
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Due to the lack of funding, no activities under this component were implemented.

Notwithstanding the lack of funding concrete disaster management activities continued. An explosion at the Sayano-Shushenskaya hydropower station in eastern Siberia killed 75 people in August 2009. One settlement close to the station lost its water supply due to the oil slick in the Yenisei river. With support from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) the Russian Red Cross provided assistance to more than 2,100 people through psychosocial support to the affected families (300 people) and through the distribution of drinking water (targeting 1,800 people) until the damaged water systems were repaired. The operation was implemented during a period of four months.

Health and Care

Programme component : TB and HIV support

Component outcome 1: The experience of the National Societies in the area of HIV is pooled and used to strengthen the different programmes in the region.
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The experience that the regional representation has gained in HIV prevention was shared with the National Societies of Belarus and Ukraine. Plans for greater regional cooperation were discussed during the visit of the regional HIV officer to Minsk and Kiev in May.

Organisational Development/Capacity Building

Programme component : Technical programme support
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Component outcome: Technical support and expertise of the International Federation is rendered and the exchange of experience between the different National Societies in the region is facilitated.

The regional representation, supported by an external expert, assisted the Russian Red Cross in developing programme plans for 2010-2011. Encouraging a more strategic approach to planning, focussing on identified needs and strengths of the organisation are vital for the longer-term development of the society as it strives to meet the growing opportunities and its role in the country. Coupled to this, a number of applications for various grants were prepared for funding bodies, that if successful will strengthen the society's standing.

The regional representation has been very vocal in underlining the need for key International Federation documents and information materials to be available in Russian, thereby facilitating the collaboration and consultation with Russian-speaking National Societies in shaping policies and working modalities. A notable case in point is the leading role the representation took in ensuring quick translation of drafts of Strategy 2020, and making them available to National Societies. Other materials from the secretariat in Geneva and the Europe zone offices were translated and distributed among National Societies in the region.

Programme component: Governance and leadership

Component outcome 1: The cooperation between the National Societies in the region is strengthened through annual leadership meetings.
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National Society leaders from the region gathered for a meeting in Budapest to discuss Strategy 2020. The meeting provided important opportunities for dialogue on the new strategic directions and the emerging vision for the future.

Preparations started for a leadership meeting organized jointly by the IFRC and ICRC for the National Societies from the Commonwealth of Independent States. The meeting was planned to be combined with a meeting on migration organized by the Russian Red Cross jointly with the International Federation. The meeting was scheduled for December, but had to be postponed for both financial and pragmatic reasons, as it followed almost immediately the General Assembly in Nairobi, where the leaders had the opportunity to discuss issues together.

Programme component: Improved resource mobilization
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Component outcome 1: The capacity of the National Societies to raise funds is improved through annual partnership meetings and other contacts with partners.

In close cooperation with UNAIDS and UNDP and the Global Business Coalition, the regional representation was involved in preparing a regional application for the Global Fund that deals with HIV prevention among migrants. It is planned that the application will be ready for submission in spring 2010.

Principles and Values

Programme purpose

Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

Programme component : Promoting humanitarian values and principles

Component outcome 1: The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the region is recognized by the national and international media as a primary source of information on disasters and humanitarian response.
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Component outcome 2: All National Societies in the region have increased the capacity of their information departments.
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An information bulletin that includes regional Red Cross programme developments and Federation news was issued. There is a regular exchange of information between the Belarus, Russian, Moldova and Ukrainian Red Cross Societies.

The Federation regional representation translated into Russian, printed and distributed among all four National Societies the summary of the World Disaster Report 2009. Its official launch was organized in Moscow in July together with the Russian Red Cross and the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development. The event received high coverage in the Russian and international media.

In November 2009 during the First Global Ministerial conference on Road Safety in Moscow, the regional representation was involved in coordination between the main partners of IFRC and in the dissemination of information to the conference participants and the media.

Working in partnership

Close partnership has been established and maintained with WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP), the European Commission delegation, USAID and Global Business Coalition regional representation. The Federation regional representation directly works with the Russian authorities, notably the ministries of health, emergencies and foreign affairs, and the governments of the other countries through the country offices.

A partnership meeting “Beyond Borders” was organized by the Federation country office for the National Societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine in Kiev on 7-8 September 2009. The objective of the meeting was to encourage and initiate new/stronger partnerships and cross-border cooperation between National Societies in the region and consequently to enable increased funding possibilities for the National Societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine as well as for neighbouring societies. The meeting already resulted in the establishment of some new partnerships, and is expected to lead to further examples of mutual support.

Looking ahead

In the second part of 2009 discussions took place between the IFRC, the Russian Red Cross and the Russian government on the functioning of the Russian Red Cross both nationally and internationally. The Russian government established an Inter-Ministerial Commission to provide support for the Russian Red Cross. The commission will cooperate with the IFRC on modernizing the Russian Red Cross. The process will focus on the improvement of the legal

position of the Russian Red Cross, including the development of a new Red Cross law, new statutes and a new strategy. The IFRC will provide technical expertise throughout the process.

The Federation's Secretary General visited Moscow in October, and during high-level meetings the Russian government expressed its willingness to support the strengthening of the Russian Red Cross. The International Federation's structure in the sub-region will be the subject of a review in early 2010, in order to align available resources with Strategy 2020 and the most urgent priorities of the National Societies concerned. The review for Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine will also explore future regional roles and functions, including in humanitarian diplomacy and scaling up Russian-language support to National Societies in the wider region.

How we work	
<p>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".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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