

# Annual report

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Montenegro

MAAME001

30 April 2010

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



The new webpage of the Red Cross of Montenegro.  
<http://www.ckcg.co.me> Red Cross of Montenegro

## In brief

**Programme purpose:** The Red Cross of Montenegro recently gained independent status after almost 90 years of being part of a larger National Society. The main programme areas of the Red Cross of Montenegro are aligned with the Global Agenda goals of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Its main priorities are: strengthening the field network by improving the quality and quantity of staff and volunteers; consolidating programmes by focusing on priority areas and scaling up capacity; and increasing the level of work with partners, both national and international.

**Programme(s) summary:** The limited funding meant that the scope of Federation supported activities was very limited. Apart from the activities within the humanitarian values programme targeting Roma and young people with disabilities<sup>1</sup>, which the IFRC supported technically, the only activities supported through the IFRC financially were organizational development, partly funded by the Norwegian Red Cross and partly from IFRC's own funds.

The National Society upgraded the HUBIE-erp finance software and redesigned its website. As a result the National Society is now quicker and more efficient in presenting relevant information about humanitarian challenges in Serbia and in promoting its work. Investments in first-aid were especially important as the National Society is on the brink of making first aid its main source of income. Training sessions in project design and management increased branch capacity in creating and implementing projects and fund-raising notably.

Implementation of the *Joint programme for inclusion of marginalized groups through education*

<sup>1</sup> Funded by the Swiss government through the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC).

targeted 658 vulnerable Roma children, children and young people with disabilities and their parents, and siblings. Key results following the support in school enrolment, support to school leavers and those who never started schooling, and language classes were: 104 Roma children successfully enrolled into the first grade of primary school; 41 Roma children successfully passed on to the next grade in primary school; and 205 children living with disabilities improved their skills, self-esteem and prospects for social integration.

**Financial situation:** The total 2009 budget is CHF 560,289 (USD 516,793 or EUR 369,560), of which 16 per cent (CHF 90,900) covered. Overall expenditure was CHF 90,472.

	Amount
<b>Budget</b>	560,289
<b>Income*</b>	90,900 (16)
<b>Expenditure</b>	90,472 (16)
<b>Balance</b>	428

Percentage of budget in brackets.

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

**No. of people we have reached:** The National Society reached 658 people within the humanitarian values programme. Key target groups were vulnerable Roma children and children with disabilities

Programme area	People reached
Humanitarian Values	<b>658</b>

**Our partners:** The Norwegian Red Cross and the governmental Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development contributed as multilateral donors, while the Danish and Spanish Red Cross Societies were involved on a bilateral basis. The Austrian and Italian Red Cross Societies have been doing joint planning resulting in bilateral activities (both societies now support the home care programme and the Italian Red Cross is looking into supporting Roma-related activities in 2010) as a result of the partnership meeting in late 2008.

## Context

The political situation in Montenegro remained stable in 2009 with elections bringing no significant changes. Economically the country struggled with the effects of the global crisis. Early in the year unemployment showed signs to decrease, only to rise to more than 12 per cent by the end of the year. The real estate market has in turn stabilised with prices dropping as most of the real estate acquisitions near the seaside are completed.

The humanitarian situation is largely unchanged, with the Roma-Ashkali-Egyptian (RAE) population, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) remaining the most vulnerable.

Apart from socio-economic developments, the support to the Red Cross in Montenegro has decreased drastically in recent years. This means that the National Society has had to make strict programme priorities. However, good positioning in relation to the government in some areas, notably disaster management where the National Society has a well-defined position and is in regular contact with the relevant authorities, meant more opportunities for other forms of support. This has been particularly useful during the ongoing discussion with the Austrian Red Cross about supporting the Red Cross of Montenegro in disaster management development.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster Management

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

No funding meant that the IFRC was supporting the disaster management activities of the Red Cross of Montenegro technically only. The National Society, partly as a result of Federation support, signed a bilateral agreement with the Austrian Red Cross in May 2009 after nearly a year of negotiations. The first activity supported through this agreement was training for three

regional disaster response teams (RDRT). The Red Cross of Montenegro also hosted three separate international events in May including a workshop on climate change in South-East Europe, the Federation shelter workshop and the annual disaster management coordinators meeting.

The main achievement in terms of Federation support to the Red Cross in Montenegro was therefore related to strengthening ties with other National Societies in disaster management.

## Health and Care

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

No funding for the health and care programme meant that all activities were cancelled.

## Organisational Development

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

The work of the Red Cross of Montenegro in organizational development is based on a branch assessment in late 2007 and priorities identified during an organizational development workshop in mid-2008. Owing to limited funding, the National Society and IFRC agreed on a small number of activities to be supported in 2009.

- The National Society's headquarters was reconstructed and refurbished. The IFRC only partly supported this work, contributing to establishing a first-aid training cabinet to be primarily used as a reference and training centre for local branches.
- First-aid training equipment such as resuscitation dolls, medical and non-medical utensils for the cabinet was purchased. Moreover the German Red Cross first-aid manual was translated into local language.
- The upgrade of the HUBIE-erp finance software was completed. The Red Cross is considering purchasing the rights to the source code of the software in order to develop the software independently and in line with the financial management and reporting needs of the National Society. Other finance development activities included:
  - User training and salary support for the newly appointed head of finance.
  - The implementation of the HUBIE-erp finance software in the branches started and is still in progress. The software has been upgraded in four local branches. User training was held for branch staff to ensure a necessary level of skills and expertise.
  - Further maintenance, training and roll-out of the package is arranged through a direct contract signed between the Europos Company (HUBIE-erp developer) and the Red Cross of Montenegro.
- The website of the Red Cross of Montenegro<sup>2</sup> was completely redesigned in 2009. The new design is more user-friendly and allows for more information to be displayed in a clearer way. Moreover the change introduced a new webpage architecture that allows for simple editing of the content compared to the previous system which required skills in programming and HTML code. Editing can now be done through intuitive and simple graphical interface.
- The three-stage training for project design, management and proposal writing was successfully completed. It was implemented through three workshops over six months, with 13 branches taking part and doing extensive 'homework' in between the workshops. Totally 15 proposals were completed and are ready for implementation. Additional training was provided on topics of fund-raising and project monitoring.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ckcg.co.me>

- The National Society was supported in applying for Intensified Capacity Building funding from the IFRC. The application was approved. In the coming three years the Red Cross will be going through thorough developmental changes in line with the plan.

**Key achievements:** The Red Cross of Montenegro completed an important phase in its financial development in 2009. The National Society is committed to the HUBIE-erp management software and will strive to familiarize local branches with the software and the system that comes with it. Planning will contribute to more branches using the system in the best possible way.

The investments in first-aid training are especially important considering that the National Society is on the brink of making first aid its main source of income at all levels. Ensuring its own capacity to provide first-aid training to drivers and other paying customers simultaneously with benign legal changes that will open the market to the Red Cross is essential.

The Red Cross of Montenegro is now quicker and more efficient in presenting relevant information about humanitarian challenges in the country and beyond, and promoting the work of the National Society to the public. Its website appears more professional, more user-friendly in terms of navigation, easier to update and cheaper to maintain. As a result the traffic on the site has been on a steady rise in the months following the redesign.

Project design and management training for local branches aimed at ensuring more sustainable activities at local level and independence from central funding. As the distribution of funds obtained through lottery taxes takes place at central level and depends on the number of proposed or active projects in the branches, there is now a considerable capacity increase in the field to create and implement projects and to fund-raise for them. This will not only diversify and enhance field-level activities but also make the strongest branches to act as tutors to developing ones and to help them with their own project proposals.

Major benefits of the programme are expected to be seen only in the longer-term.

**Constraints or Challenges:** The acceptance of the HUBIE-erp software in the field is still limited with only four branches using it. Reconsideration of the scope of HUBIE features that should be used by all branches, if any, is needed.

## Principles and Values

**Programme purpose:** Reduce intolerance discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity

No funding was received for the humanitarian values programme. However, the IFRC supported programme implementation technically. Sub-programmes included home care and support to Roma children, children from other marginalized families, young people with disabilities and parents.

**Home Care:** The IFRC assisted the National Society in preparing a joint plan with the Austrian Red Cross for a three-year home care programme support and development. The plan was turned into a project proposal that the Austrian government accepted and granted the Austrian Red Cross. The Italian Red Cross also raised the possibility of supporting the programme with support and activities starting in early 2010. The Hellenic Red Cross also expressed interest to support the programme.

**Open kindergarten for Roma and other children from marginalized families, and work with young people with disabilities:** The implementation of the new phase of the *Joint programme*

for inclusion of marginalized groups through education started as planned in January 2009.<sup>3</sup> The programme targeted 658 vulnerable Roma children, children and young people with disabilities and their parents, and siblings during this implementation period. Of these 368 vulnerable Roma children, parents and siblings were supported through mentor classes, the preschool preparatory programme and homework support, as well as with meals during the activities, school accessories and basic hygiene items. The supported people were living in three municipalities and in the Konik camps for displaced people in Podgorica.

The Konik camp<sup>4</sup> and the nearest surrounding area, with 2,500 Roma displaced from Kosovo and Metohija in 1999, is recognised as a project of national importance by the government of Montenegro. Numerous particularities related to the camp and close involvement of the government call for specific attention and unique approaches in including the children of the camps into the educational system. At present, the following specific activities are implemented:

- **School enrolment:** A total of 30 Roma children from the Konik camps were enrolled into five mainstream schools in Podgorica as opposed to the school located in the camps which is otherwise the most common choice by parents. Totally 27 children completed the first grade and 21 continued with the second grade in September. In addition, 19 new children have been enrolled into the two public schools in September.
- **Second chance education:** In camp Konik literacy training classes were carried out targeting youth who has dropped out of the formal education system or never started schooling. There is a huge interest for this programme among Roma youth. The activity targeted 18 pupils who were supported in preparing for official exams equivalent to grades in the formal elementary education system (exams are scheduled for January 2010). Four persons were trained to achieve basic functional literacy and writing skills.
- **Language classes:** Language classes were organized for 20 children aged 5 to 6 as the camp inhabitants predominantly speak Albanian or Roma language only. The activity aims to support the children in overcoming language barriers when they enrol into the formal education system.

Another 290 vulnerable children and youth with disabilities and their parents were supported through interactive workshops aiming at social inclusion, acquisition of practical life and work skills, and intellectual, perceptive and motorics development.

A methodology for facilitating municipal cooperation has been launched in Montenegro and the National Society continued cooperation with relevant partners and participated in national activities in the framework of the *Decade of Roma Inclusion*.

Achievements in terms of development included standardisation of projects, development of regional resource centres, better understanding of knowledge management and revision of monitoring tools.

The programme set-up in Montenegro now includes five Movement partners: the Red Cross of Serbia and the Montenegro Red Cross as operating National Societies; the Danish and Spanish Red Cross Societies as supporting partner National Societies; and the Federation secretariat with overall coordination role. Moreover the programme is implemented through partnerships with UNICEF, the NGO 'Pomoc Deci' and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Joint planning organized by SDC with the Red Cross, UNICEF and Pomoc Deci resulted in a revised logical framework matrix and a plan of action for implementing joint activities in cooperation with the partners.

### Key achievements

- The development of a proposal for advocacy framework for the project has started and will result in a comprehensive manual in 2010.

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<sup>3</sup> Previously named the "Social Welfare programme".

<sup>4</sup> Consists of two camps; Konik 1 and Konik 2.

- Revision of the programme documentation templates was completed and led to a standardized and harmonized programme approach.
- The participatory community development methodology was adapted and training of trainers completed to improve cooperation between implementing branches and local stakeholders by involving them in local project planning, implementation and monitoring.
- Preparations for a baseline study are in progress.
- Registration of information about people reached was completed and data gathered from the field are now being analysed.

#### Achievements – Key figures

- 104 Roma children successfully enrolled into the first grade of primary school.
- 41 Roma children successfully passed on to the next grade in primary school.
- 205 children living with disabilities improved their skills, self-esteem and prospects for social integration through workshops.
- 85 parents were also covered by the programme.

## Working in partnership

The Red Cross of Montenegro worked in partnership with the IFRC and received support from the Norwegian Red Cross and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation through the Federation secretariat plan. Bilaterally the Danish Red Cross supported the National Society. The NGO Pomoć Deci and UNICEF were partners in the field of humanitarian values.

The National Society has developed deeper bilateral partnerships with the Austrian Red Cross in disaster management and home care, and with the Italian Red Cross in home care. This is the result of IFRC brokering and assistance. The support from the National Societies to the home care programme allows the Red Cross of Montenegro to successfully continue with this activity after the withdrawal of funding channelled through the IFRC.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

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

Besides being aligned with the Global Agenda all programme components 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 Global Agenda 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 as an integrated and important component. Within disaster preparedness the psychosocial component puts special emphasis on gender to ensure that the needs of each family member are adequately assessed and met.

## Looking ahead

The current funding situation allows the IFRC to be directly involved only with activities funded by SDC. 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

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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