

Annual report



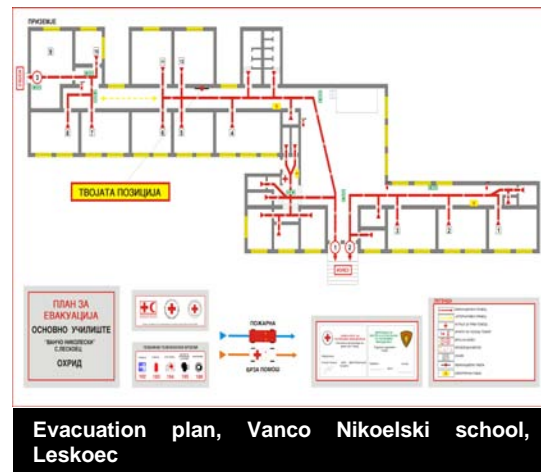
International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Appeal No. MAAMK002

30 April 2011

This report covers the period from 1 January 2010
to 31 December 2010.



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 Albania 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 secretariat's key areas of support to the Macedonian Red Cross include guiding National Societies in their development process of transformation, strengthening their human resource capacities to provide quality services to the most vulnerable and improving their capacities in disaster preparedness and response to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

Programme summary:

Limited funding meant that only activities in the Disaster Management programme were taking place, while the other programmes are to be implemented as soon as support is ensured. Macedonian Red Cross has been active in seeking other sources of funding, partners and opportunities.

Within the Disaster Management programme, a project focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction was implemented covering 12 primary schools in Ohrid and Struga micro regions. The project involved all the entities and actors in disaster preparedness at local level and served as a springboard for

addressing the risk assessment and reduction practices at local level, introducing new methodologies and continuing the dialogue with local and national level authorities and actors regarding Disaster Risk Reduction.

Financial situation: The total 2010 budget is CHF 65,808, of which CHF 43,008 (65 per cent) covered during the reporting period. Expenditure against the budget was CHF 43,008, 100 per cent. [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

See also [Macedonia country plan for 2010-2011](#)

No. of people we have reached: Approximately 7900

Our partners: The Norwegian Red Cross provided funds for the Disaster Management activities.

Context

The political situation in Macedonia has been fairly stable in 2010. However, the economy is still suffering the effects of the economic crisis although gradual recovery has been noted (GDP growth of 1.3% in 2011). The unemployment rate is still extremely high, hovering around 30% and the budget deficit was at 2.5%.

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, 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

Component outcome 1: Contingency and response plans are updated to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities.

Programme component 1: Organizational Preparedness

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

The activities were implemented in five steps:

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

- Vulnerability-assessment of the educational institutions in the municipalities of Ohrid, Struga, Vevcani and Debarca.
- Selection of 12 vulnerable Schools
- Collecting information about risks in the municipalities of Ohrid, Struga, Vevcani and Debarca.
- Introduction of local population with the benefits of the project.

For this step there were three workshops with local institutions responsible for preparedness and disaster management as well as principles of the selected schools, as well as four meetings with local governments.

The second step consisted of a 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.

The third step included infrastructural activities in schools:

- installation of a panic signal,
- assembling evacuation plans and first aid boxes

Also, local assessment teams were formed to identify the types of risk, vulnerabilities and capacities in the given municipalities.

The fourth step consisted of making risk maps for each community, constructing of a database (Global Mapper), two regional simulations (Hristo Uzunov OU-OU Ohrid and Josip Broz Tito, Struga) with the inclusion of all entities responsible for disaster management at local level and 10 practical exercises for evacuation in the following schools: PS St. Naum Ohridski Peshtani, OSU St. Kliment Ohridski, Ohrid, PS Koco Racin-Ohrid, PS Vanco Nikoleski-Leskoec, PS Kliment Ohridski Meseista, PS, St. Clement of Ohrid, PS-Debrca Belcista, OSU Niko Nestor-Struga, PS-Vevcani Vevcani, PS Koco Racin-Leskaica.

The fifth step of this project consisted of producing reports on the abovementioned simulations and exercises with recommendations for further capacity building for the 12 schools. The risk maps were also distributed to local governments in Ohrid, Debarca, Struga and Vevcani, the regional centre for crisis management in Ohrid and Struga, regional offices of the Directorate for Protection and Rescue and the Red Cross Branches in Ohrid and Struga.

The Global Mapper software along with complete database was installed in Red Cross Branches in Ohrid and Struga, where via web access all local institutions can update the data and make some scenarios for possible disasters.

Activities:

- The project covered 12 schools from micro regions of Ohrid and Struga.
- 24 lecturers were trained in first-aid
- 43 lecturers and technical staff for protection and self-protection in case of disasters were trained
- 7800 students were trained for the practical use of plans for evacuation in case of disasters (flood, fire and earthquake).
- 2 regional simulations (Ohrid and Struga) were held with involvement of all parties responsible for crisis management at local level.
- 10 practical exercises (test of evacuation plans) were done in 10 schools.
- A database for risk and vulnerable communities and facilities for micro regions Struga and Ohrid was created.
- 42 boards with plans for evacuation were printed for use in the schools
- Reports with recommendations for protection and rescue were done for 12 schools.
- 250 panic lights mounted in 12 schools
- 36 first aid boxes mounted in 12 schools
- Reports with recommendations for further capacity building were done for 12 schools

- 29 community representatives completed a course for assessment of vulnerability and capacity (Local Government, Department for Protection and Rescue, Centre for Crisis Management, Police, Port Authority, Ohrid and Struga Red Cross branches' volunteers).
- 7 printed maps (physical geography of micro regions Ohrid and Struga)
- 7 printed maps (estimation of risks for micro regions Ohrid and Struga)
- 18 printed business cards for micro regions Ohrid and Struga
- Two Licenses to use the Global Mapper software in the Red Cross branches Ohrid and Struga
- Four computers were purchased for the branches in Ohrid and Struga as well as Macedonian Red Cross Headquarters, specifically for Global Mapper software use.

All entities that are part of crisis management and protection and rescue participated in the project in the mentioned areas:

- Crisis Management Centre (regional centers Ohrid and Struga)
- Protection and Rescue (local units of Ohrid and Struga)
- Local self government of Ohrid, Struga, Vecani and Debarca
- Local fire department units in Ohrid and Struga
- Local units of the Ministry of Health in Ohrid and Struga
- Local units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Ohrid and Struga
- Ohrid port authority
- Red Cross Branches of Ohrid and Struga

Total number of staff actively involved: 30 people.

Achievements

- Samples are made and accepted for development of operative plans for protection and rescue from disasters, which are to be used in educational institutions at national level.
- In both micro regions according to the developed plans for the protection and rescue from accidents and disasters for educational institutions, there are scenarios for evacuation of students and staff in case of accidents and disasters. Simulations were held in which all entities that are part of crisis management system have participated. Great improvements were achieved regarding: communication and coordination of local institutions, awareness among the students and staff of protection and self-protection, infrastructure conditions in relation to evacuation in schools.
- The responsibilities of the entities in the system for crisis management are better identified and understood, particularly in terms of distinguishing between responsibilities of units of local self-government and national authorities at the local level according to the current legislation.
- Improved capacity for assessment and response in case of accidents and disasters in micro regions covered by the project.
- There are trained people (basic knowledge) at local level to assess the risks of hazards, the use of IT technology devices (software for mapping, GPS, databases, etc.) with the tools and methodology for assessing vulnerability and capacity based on the International Red Cross/ Red Crescent experiences.
- Local and national mass media are more active in education of the population for self protection in case of accidents and disasters.
- A realistic picture of needs and capacities of local institutions that are part of crisis management is now available.
- Awareness is raised among the general population in regards of protection and self protection from accidents and disasters
- Risks and vulnerable groups in micro regions Ohrid and Struga are identified and geographically located.

- Proposal was jointly made to the Ministry of Education to introduce regular training for preparedness and evacuation in case of disasters, by local governments of Ohrid, Struga, Debarca and Vevcani, school boards, the Red Cross and the Crisis Management Centre.
- Local governments of communities not covered by the project are preparing to adopt the methodology of work in schools on their territories.
- Continuous education and practical conditioning of students for self-protection and protection in case of disasters.
- Unified system for monitoring the possible risks and disasters at local level is adopted. (Fast development of hazard maps, location, facilities, tech-mate resources, analytical data, etc.)
- Strengthened capacities and resilience of the entities responsible for disaster management at local level.

Constraints

No significant problems were encountered during the implementation.

Future steps:

Macedonian Red Cross will direct its program for disaster preparedness and response in accordance with Strategy 2020, putting special emphasis on:

- Upgrading and improving the capacity of 29 Red Cross Branches for preparedness and response in disaster through the implementation of information system for vulnerability assessment, analysis, and action plans to reduce the risks of vulnerable groups at local level.
- Implementation of an integrated, efficient and effective approach for prevention, early warning, coping and overcoming the consequences of disasters in 29 micro regions in Macedonia.
- Implementation of the adopted methodology for access to educational institutions in 29 micro regions for risk reduction.

Priorities

- Risk reduction of accidents and disasters in micro regions through undertaking concrete actions
- According to determined risks of accidents and disasters, making plans for action at local level
- Reducing the risks of disasters in educational institutions, through training, infrastructural interventions, and applying the approved methodology.
- Implementation of the information system and its updating

Health and Care

Programme purpose

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

Programme component: 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: 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: 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

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 aim of providing effective and quality services in all programme areas.

Achievements: No funding for this activity was available through the annual country plan, however the National Society has worked on these objectives using the support provided through the Intensified Capacity Building plan.

Working in partnership

N/A

Contributing to longer-term impact

N/A

Looking ahead

N/A

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".

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 non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this report, please contact:

- **In the Macedonian Red Cross:** Sait Saiti, Secretary General; phone: +389 2 3114 355; fax: +38923230 542; email: saiti@redcross.org.mk;
- **In the Europe Zone Office:** Elias Ghanem, Head of Support Services, Budapest; email: elias.ghanem@ifrc.org; phone: +361 888 4518, fax: +361 336 1516